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ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY IN 1907

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY.

COLLEGEVILLE, MINNESOTA.

A SKETCH OF ITS HISTORY

BY

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SUPERIORUM PERMISSU.

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PREFACE.

The following pages pretend to be no more than a sketch, in the form of annals, of the history of St. John's. As such it is merely a compilation of events that will serve as working material for the future historian. Most of the information was drawn from the annual catalogues, the first of which was published in 1870; from the files of newspapers, such as *Der Wanderer*, of St. Paul, and the *St. Cloud Daily Times*; from the *St. John's University Record*, private diaries and personal recollections. If many of the happenings chronicled do not rise to the dignity of historical events, the writer's excuse is that he has addressed himself primarily to the alumni of the institution, to whom the daily doings of college life are as interesting as the larger facts of history. For this reason too the forms of annals was chosen as a dress for the narrative.

A. H.

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CHAPTER I.

BEGINNINGS — THE ST. CLOUD PRIORY — TRANSFERS — FINAL LOCATION. — 1856 — 67.

When, about the middle of last century, that part of central Minnesota lying west of the Mississippi was thrown open for settlement, such a stream of settlers poured in that in a short time the face of the primitive wilderness was changed. The Indian tribes had been induced to move northward and their former hunting-grounds were soon transformed into smiling fields; roads were constructed across country; stage routes afforded facilities for travel by land and small steamboats passed up and down the Mississippi river between Minneapolis and St. Cloud.

A great number of the immigrants who arrived in 1854 and '55 were Germans and Catholics, and their spiritual care at once became an important subject of attention. In all the northern part of the Territory of Minnesota there was at the time but one priest, the late Rev. F. Pierz, (†1880 at the age of ninety five years) who, in addition to ministering to the Indians in the northern and eastern parts of the Territory, was commissioned by the bishop of St. Paul, Msgr. J. Cretin († 1857), to visit the German settlements in Stearns County. It was a laborious task for an old man who had already reached the age of three-score and ten, for he lived at Crow Wing on the upper Mississippi and could avail himself of no traveling facilities whatever for his missionary journeys. Like a true apostle, he went afoot and sought for the members of his scattered flock in the forests and on the prairies, offered them the

consolation of religion, and from the storehouse of his experience gave them valuable guidance for their temporal pursuits as well. To him the settlement of Stearns and several other counties is chiefly due. In the year 1855 he held services at St. Cloud, St. Joseph, St. James, Richmond (Torah) etc. and at the two places first named, he organized congregations. The work now exceeded his powers and he yearned to return to the Indians to whose interests he had consecrated his life. Hence he appealed to the bishop of St. Paul to secure German priests for the new settlements.

Ten years earlier, in 1846, Rev. Boniface Wimmer — who must be recognized as the actual founder of the institution we are about to describe — had come from the ancient monastery of Metten in Bavaria to the United States and had founded the Benedictine monastery of St. Vincent's in Pennsylvania. Believing that the venerable Order which he had transplanted upon American soil was destined to exercise an apostolate in the interests of religion, civilization and education as it had done so gloriously for many centuries in Europe until its activity was crippled by pernicious legislation, he accepted an invitation of the Bishop of St. Paul, to send some priests for the northern part of the St. Paul diocese and eventually to found a house of the Order in that diocese.

Early in April, 1856, a small missionary band, composed of the Very Rev. Demetrius Marogna, Frs. Cornelius Wittmann and Bruno Riss, both clerics in Minor Orders who had just completed their studies, and two lay brothers, Benno Muckenthaler and Patrick Greil, set out from St. Vincent's and after a tedious journey by steamboat down the Ohio and up the Mississippi, arrived in St. Paul on May 2.

P. Demetrius, to whom the direction of the enterprise was entrusted, was descended from a noble family in the northern part of Italy and was born September 17, 1802 at Villa Lagarina, in the southern part of Tyrol. After the

war of 1809, the Count de Marogna left Tyrol with his family and took up his residence in Bavaria, where the young Count Charles — the subject of this sketch — received an education suitable to his station and rank. While pursuing his studies, he began to realize the emptiness of a purely worldly career and resolved to devote himself to the sacred ministry. Having finished a seminary course in Mayence, he was ordained a priest in 1824 and during the following twenty-three years served as pastor in the dioceses of Mayence and Augsburg.

In 1847 he left Bavaria to spend the remainder of his life in the missions of the United States where, as he had learned from periodicals and newspapers, there was a scarcity of priests, especially in the German settlements in the middle and western States. The first scene of his labors was western Illinois — Germantown and vicinity, where he served under the jurisdiction of the bishop of Chicago till 1852. To his serious and reflecting mind, the perils of missionary life were too great and he concluded to retire from the missions into monastic seclusion. He entered the novitiate of St. Vincent's, Pa. in 1852 and in less than two years from that time he found himself elevated to the office of Prior of that monastery, a position which he occupied during a critical period and which he resigned when he was chosen to organize an establishment of the Order in distant Minnesota.

Shortly after the arrival of the colony in St. Paul, the two clerics, Fr. Cornelius and Fr. Bruno, were ordained priests. On May 20, the party arrived in Sauk Rapids and on the following day for the first time visited St. Cloud, the county seat of Stearns County. This county was organized in the winter of 1854-55 and at the time of the arrival of the Benedictines, St. Cloud was the only village which it could boast. Some slight beginnings had been made here as early as 1852, it appears, but the place first began to attract attention in 1854 and '55, when settlers from Indiana and other middle States made their homes

on the present site of the city.

At that time there lived on two claims near the river and about 2 miles south of St. Cloud, two brothers, Louis and William Rothkopp, both single and well advanced in years. Prompted, probably, by a desire to encourage the establishment of a house of the Order near St. Cloud, they had made an offer of their claims (320 acres) to the Fathers, who, in good faith, entered into possession. They, in turn, were required to support the two brothers for the rest of their days. Without delay the Fathers proceeded to establish a monastery on one of the claims: an humble makeshift of a monastery in point of buildings. The latter consisted of a log-hut, destitute of comfort and furniture; a small frame addition, to serve as a kitchen, was at once built. Late in fall a small stable was built for the two horses and the cow which constituted the entire live-stock of the community.

From this point the Fathers visited the settlements in Stearns and neighboring counties, gathered the people, formed congregations, began erecting churches and schools and soon had the satisfaction to learn that their labors were not unrewarded, for the people responded eagerly, and soon log-chapels were reared, which in many instances named the settlements, as St. Joseph, St. Augusta, St. Wendel, St. Martin etc. The importance of the school was not ignored: the children were collected for instruction for a few months a year. At St. Cloud, P. Cornelius, who was the first pastor of the place, established a school in October 1856, on the south-west corner of Block 6, Washington and Lake Streets; the school quarters were a frail shed built of boards. Such was the first school in Stearns County. P. Cornelius held services for the congregation on Sundays and taught the school during the week until summer 1857.

The Fathers realized that in course of time some provision must be made for higher education; moreover, if the Order and its missionary work was to be permanent in

Minnesota, provision had to be made for training candidates for the Order. For some time and as long as the monastery continued to be dependent upon St. Vincent's, it might rely upon that institution for help; but it was desirable, and very naturally so, that each new establishment be self supporting in every respect. No shrewd calculations were made in advance: a college was a necessity and whether it was to prove a financial success or not was a question that received no consideration. Like Abbot Boniface Wimmer, the Fathers were willing to admit students who lacked the means to pay their way through a course of study; they were convinced that their labors would be recompensed in one form or another.

First of all it was important to secure corporate rights for the Order in Minnesota and a charter for the prospective educational institution. The charter was drawn up and introduced into the House of Representatives (as House file No. 70) during the eighth session of the Territorial Legislature, on January 22, 1857, by Hon. John L. Wilson, of St. Cloud. It was

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE ST. JOHN SEMINARY.

WHEREAS, It is highly important, that the youths of this new, but flourishing Territory, be not only instructed in the elementary sciences, but moreover, be also educated by sound, moral principles;

And, WHEREAS, It is very desirable, that there be a corporation formed, in order to establish a scientific, educational and ecclesiastical institution;

In consideration thereof,

Be it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Minnesota:

Sec. 1. That the members of the religious order of St. Benedict, Demitri Marogna, Cornelius Wittmann, Bruno Riss, Alexius Roetzer and their associates and successors

in office, which order is instituted for scientific, educational and ecclesiastical purposes, be a body politic and corporate, to be known by the name and style of "Order of St. Benedict," and by that name shall have perpetual succession.

Sec. 2. The principal object of this politic and corporate body shall be the promotion of the instruction and education of youths, to the acquirement of which end the corporators named in this act shall be hereby authorized to establish and erect an institution, or seminary, in Stearns county, on that portion of St. Cloud city, platted and recorded as Rothkopp's Addition to St. Cloud, to be known by the name and style of "St. John's Seminary."

(Then follow eight other sections detailing the rights and duties of the corporation.)

The Bill was launched upon a stormy sea and encountered much prejudice and opposition from those to whom the existence of an educational institution controlled by Catholic clergymen appeared a menace to the public welfare. After being passed from the House to the Council with amendments in which the upper body refused to concur and to the elimination of which the House finally agreed, the bill was passed February 27. It was among the last bills reported and was signed by Governor Willis A. Gorman on March 6, 1857.

Thus the new institution was given public recognition and the Fathers were encouraged to proceed in their enterprise, the organization of the first private institution for higher education in Minnesota. They asked for no State aid and had no hopes of ever receiving assistance from that quarter. Pecuniary resources were slender and the year 1857 was marked by a financial crisis, to say nothing of the dire grasshopper visitation which had been disastrous to the crops in 1856 and the ravages of which were still felt in this part of the Territory in 1857.

PRIOR CORNELIUS WITTMANN

On October 7, 1857 P. Demetrius retired from the priorship and upon invitation of the late Msgr. A. Ravoux, then administrator of the vacant see of St. Paul, accepted the pastorate of the Assumption church in the city of St. Paul. From January 1858 to June 1863 he labored in this position: then his poor health and advanced age induced him to retire from active service in the mission. During the next two years he served as chaplain of St. Joseph's Academy in St. Paul, until his steady decline in health compelled him to give up this work also. After spending the better part of two years at St. Augustine, Florida, in the vain hope of recovering his health he returned to Minnesota and died at St. Paul, March 27, 1869.

On his retirement in October 1857, he was followed in the office of Prior by P. Cornelius Wittmann, hitherto pastor of St. Cloud, who now made his headquarters at the priory, but continued to hold services in St. Cloud on Sundays.

The new institution had been chartered as a Seminary, but as that designation was not familiar to the public, the name "College" soon came into vogue. It was not a pretentious college; the buildings, staff and equipment were lacking, — but all beginnings are small and the founders were confident that its future was assured. The Prior of the community acted as ex-officio President of the College.

When the College was opened Nov. 10, 1857, there was but one professor and five students: the professor was P. Cornelius and the pioneer students, Henry Emmel and Anthony Edelbrock (in later years Abbot and President of the institution) of St. Cloud, Henry Klostermann of Richmond, Andrew Stahlberger of Lake George and Jos. Duerr of St. Joseph.

The simplicity of the institution may be inferred from the following graphic memoir from the pen of one of the students of those days: "Think of the primitive log building

about 12x20, then to this an additional structure about 14x20, in height one story and an attic—the latter weather boarded—situated about two miles below St. Cloud on the Mississippi river and you have a fine picture of St. John's in 1857. The whole building contained, besides kitchen and studio, three small rooms, one for the Prior, one for the professor and the third was kept for an occasional guest. In those days guests were few and far between. The term professor was used in the singular only, because there was but one and he taught all the branches. The Rev. Father Cornelius Wittmann, O. S. B. was the first to open a day school in St. Cloud and Stearns County, and he also was the first to fill the professor's chair at St. John's. He was at that time still in the twenties, nimble of foot, bright in mind, pleasant in company; the children and the young folks were especially fond of him: he was a zealous and amiable gentleman."

P. Cornelius was a painstaking teacher and a strict disciplinarian: but it was his considerate kindness that reconciled the students to the primitive conditions prevalent in the poor little college. Thus in a reminiscent mood one of the early students writes: "We were frontier lads, accustomed to ample elbowroom: broad prairies, little restraint and good meals suited us first rate. We had largely been our own bosses and to enjoy life was not at all the last or least of our aspirations. When therefore the reins were slowly but firmly put upon us, there were sour faces, and one or the other even doubted whether he ought not at once bid a long, lingering adieu to Apollo and the Muses.

"The college regulations were read to us. We had to rise at five o'clock, say our morning prayers, attend daily Mass; then study and at seven o'clock breakfast: i. e. a cup of coffee and a slice of dry bread — no butter or molasses or sugar there. After breakfast free for one half-hour; at 8 o'clock classes began and lasted until 11; then dinner. After dinner, free time until one o'clock; then classes were resumed. At 3 we received a piece of dry bread. This,

with fresh water, was relished with a gusto. From 4 to 6 we had to study; at 6 supper. From $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ study time, then night prayers and to bed....

"There was poverty everywhere; a poor and miserable house, poor and scant food; poor and bad lights. The tallow candle was the only light in those days. Then nobody knew anything of kerosene, gas or electric light, the indispensable requisites of the modern school room. Must it not be a surprise to some people of our days, that in centuries gone by such great luminaries arose, illuminated only by the tallow candle? Yet such is the truth. The greatest men the world ever saw were surrounded by poverty and poor light. We had few books. The professor lectured; we had to write. Yes, we were started in on the European plan."*

Meanwhile difficulties had arisen, involving the possession of the two claims which the community occupied. To escape possible embarrassments from litigation, Prior Cornelius determined to transfer both the priory and the college to St. Joseph, eight miles west of St. Cloud. The transfer was made on March 5, 1858. Here the college was continued in a log structure, 25x30. Prior Cornelius turned his attention to the general direction of the affairs of his community and was succeeded in the management of the college by P. Alexius Roetzer, whose name appears in the charter as one of the corporators. He came to Minnesota in October 1856 and had hitherto been employed in ministering to the missions of Stearns, Benton, Meeker and Wright counties. He was a man of imposing physical stature, with an emaciated countenance from which beamed a bright intellect; he was zealous and amiable, pious and talented, kind, yet strict. He carried into the class-room the same zeal with which he had visited the missions and enjoyed the love and confidence of his class. He was an excellent professor, still the number of students did not

* S. J. U. Record. vol. I. 62.

increase during his regime. The times were too hard and the settlers too poor. He worked faithfully until June 1859 when his rapidly failing health compelled him to resign. He felt that he was doomed and returned East; on February 25, 1860 he expired at St. Vincent's at the age of twenty-eight.

In September 1858 the first general chapter of the Order in the United States was held at St. Vincent's. Prior Cornelius and P. Benedict Haindl of the Minnesota mission attended. At this chapter the St. Cloud priory was declared independent and authorized to exist as a separate community. P. Benedict Haindl was at the same time elected as first canonical Prior of the monastery, and his election was duly approved by a decree of the Propaganda Dec. 23. 1858.

PRIOR BENEDICT HAINDL (1858 - 62)

who had joined the Benedictine Order at St. Vincent's and, since his ordination to the priesthood in 1849, had displayed his abilities in several important capacities, came to Minnesota in April 1857. Since his arrival he had served in the missions of Scott, Le Sueur and Carver counties, where he visited and organized a number of congregations.

When he entered upon the duties of his office late in 1858, P. Cornelius retired and was appointed pastor at Shakopee. Prior Benedict did not consider the late transfer of the institution expedient and in March 1859, both monastery and college were again removed to St. Cloud, i. e. to the Rothkopp's claim.

After P. Alexius' retirement from the professorship in June 1859, he was succeeded by P. Anschar Frauendorfer, who, in addition to the work of the class room, attended the mission of St. Augusta twice a month. P. Anschar was a man of scholarly attainments and is remembered by his pupils as an excellent professor of the Greek language. He occupied the position of professor with much credit from

September 1859 to November 13, 1860, when he became assistant to the pastor of the Assumption church, in St. Paul, and was followed in the professorial chair by P. Magnus Mayr who had arrived from St. Vincent's in August of that year.

P. Magnus was an able teacher and the attendance during his administration was very satisfactory. He was assisted in the class room by Mr. John Daxacher, a student of theology and subsequently a wellknown clergyman in the diocese of Omaha († Nov. 1904). Owing to the increase of attendance, the accommodations were insufficient and a new building, 22x54, was erected in 1861. It was the intention of the community to establish an ecclesiastical seminary distinct from the classical school. Bishop Grace on his return from an official visit to the settlements along the Red River, had encouraged the Fathers to make this improvement and had promised students and substantial assistance. In fall, 1861, P. Magnus retired and was succeeded by P. Anschar Frauendorfer. P. Magnus did not remain a member of the community, but accepted an appointment as pastor in the diocese of St. Paul, in which he continued to serve at various places—Chanhassen, East Minneapolis and, finally, St. Walburga (Rogers P. O.), where he died June 29, 1888. Among his papers were several interesting notes which are embodied in the present sketch.

Troublesome days were drawing nigh: in spring 1861 the Civil War broke out and the excitement pervaded even the Arcadian seclusion of the frontier college. Still, work was not seriously hampered. The scholastics, or students who were preparing to enter the Order, were permitted to wear the habit of the Order, as was customary in St. Vincent's. Mr. Daxacher, who has been mentioned above, received the habit in December 1861, and on January 6 following, Fratres Benedict M. Duerr, Boniface Emmel, Willibald Michel, Augustine Marshall and Valentine Stimmier were invested as scholastics. They were not bound by vows and attended classes with the other students.

Although the school near St. Cloud seemed to be progressing satisfactorily, there was a sentiment favorable to a transfer of the institution into the more populous districts of the State and Shakopee was deemed an eligible locality. This project, however, was abandoned. When the institution was transferred to St. Cloud in 1859, the tenure of the Rothkopp claim was uncertain. Now, new complications set in. Mr. Geo. F. Brott, who had carried mail between Minneapolis and St. Cloud from 1855 - 58 and for this service was entitled to select public lands, laid claim to the premises held by the Rothkopps and had taken steps to make good his claim in Washington. There was a lively dispute which continued until February 20, 1862 when the commissioner of the general land office decided against Mr. Brott. The latter appealed from this decision to the Secretary of the Interior, Caleb B. Smith, who reversed the commissioner's ruling on April 25, 1862. Of the 320 acres in litigation, only 75 were awarded to Louis Rothkopp. The other brother had died in 1859.

Troubles never come singly: during August 1862 the citizens of Minnesota had a rebellion of the Sioux Indians on hand. On August 21, the savages attacked New Ulm and perpetrated a dreadful massacre. "The counties along the Minnesota river" says J. Fletcher Williams,* "were not the only ones ravaged by the red devils during that week of blood. McLeod, Monongalia, Kandiyohi, Stearns, Meeker, Otter Tail, Douglas, Sibley, etc., were all overrun in whole or in part, and the inhabitants either butchered or driven away. The first blood of the outbreak had been shed at Acton, Meeker county. Western and southern Stearns county suffered severely from the depredations of the red foe. About August 23d, they committed murders and other crimes near Paynesville. The people of that town erected a strong stockade, and the citizens and refugees from points further west sheltered themselves

* History of the Mississippi Valley. Page 147.

therein. A part of the town was burned but no attack was made on the post. At Maine Prairie, St. Joseph's, Sauk Centre, Clear Water, Little Falls, and other places, similar stockades were built and held by a few determined citizens. At St. Cloud, which was filled with refugees, strong fortifications were built and preparations made to defend the place to the utmost, but no foe ever appeared, fortunately. A number of persons were murdered in the western and southern part of Stearns county, and houses burned."

Most of the settlers who lived in the vicinity of St. Cloud fled to that town; the College, too, was seized by a panic and was forced to suspend work. Several of the students left; the rest, together with the community, took refuge in St. Cloud where work was continued as well as circumstances permitted.

Prior Benedict's term of office had expired, much to his own relief, for he had lived through bitter days. At a chapter held at St. Cloud on October 15, 1862, a successor to P. Benedict was elected in the person of Very Rev. P. Othmar Wirtz.

PRIOR OTHMAR WIRTZ (1862-65)

had, since his ordination to priesthood in 1857, been Director of the College and Prior at St. Vincent's, Pa. He was a pious and zealous religious and had nothing more at heart than the promotion of monastic life. He arrived in St. Cloud November 17, 1862 and at once began to regulate the missionary work of the community. In consequence of the disturbance caused by the Indian outbreak, it was next to impossible to conduct college work. The class for some time was composed exclusively of candidates for the Order.

The adverse decision of the Secretary of the Interior regarding the Rothkopp claim was a source of great disappointment to the community: the fruit of five years' labor and expenditure was lost. Prior Othmar did not consider

the place, suitable for a monastery, because it was too near what promised to be a large city in due course of time. Hence he resolved to abandon the place and transfer the community into what was then called the Indian Bush, the woods west of St. Joseph. Here the Fathers had taken up several "claims" years before and several Brothers had lived there, cutting down timber and preparing the soil for cultivation.

Before taking the final steps, Prior Othmar petitioned the State Legislature for an appropriate modification of the charter, which had authorized the erection of a seminary in a definite locality. That body early in 1864 passed

AN ACT

TO AMEND AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE ST. JOHN'S SEMINARY, APPROVED MARCH SIXTH, 1857.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

SEC. I. That section two of an act to incorporate the St. John's Seminary be and the same is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

SECTION 2. The principal object of this politic and corporate body shall be the promotion of the instruction and education of youths, to the acquirements of which end the corporators named in this act shall be hereby authorized to establish and erect an institution or seminary in Stearns County to be known by the name and style of St. John's Seminary."

SEC. II. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved February 6, 1864.

Shortly after the approval of this Act, the third transfer was made and operations were resumed in the heart of the Indian Bush, a short distance from the present Collegeville station. There was no railway line west of the Mississippi at the time.

Here P. Benedict had caused a house to be built five years before. It was too small for the community, and a more pretentious frame building, also a neat little chapel had been built. A fair piece of land had been placed, under cultivation; there was water and fuel near by and the vicinity was gradually building up. This was the home of the community for almost three years. One building sheltered the religious and the few students. P. Wolfgang Northman, who had come from St. Vincent's as a cleric in 1862 acted as professor and disciplinarian. Late in 1864 Fr. Valentine Stimmller, the only scholastic remaining of the class of 1862, was sent into the novitiate at St. Vincent's, being the first novice from Minnesota. He returned towards the end of 1865 and continued his theological studies.

On December 11, 1865, Prior Othmar retired from office and was succeeded, temporarily, by the former Prior P. Benedict. P. Othmar, who was suffering from some pulmonary malady, became assistant at the Assumption church, St. Paul, where after almost nine years of an exemplary, devoted life he died June 8, 1874. Prior Benedict had himself chosen the site on which the monastery stood in 1865 — section 31 of the township of St. Wendel — but less than two miles to the southwest there was what appeared to him to be a still more desirable location, at least for the buildings. It was rolling country covered with dense woods and its most attractive and useful feature was a delightful lake about 400 acres in extent. Without delay, he prepared for the fourth transfer. In January 1866 a site on an elevation on the northern shore of the lake was selected for the buildings; trees were cut down and as soon as spring set in, excavations for the basement were begun. The entire personnel of the monastery assisted in the work; there were, besides, a number of paid laborers.

The first building was constructed of boulders, or "nigger heads" picked up at or near the building site. Trave-

lers through this part of the State may still see buildings of this apparently unwieldy material. The structure was 46x50 ft. and its unadorned front faced the rising sun. Besides the basement, there were two stories and an attic. The basement was intended for cellars, kitchen and dining room; the first and second floor as quarters — temporarily — for the Fathers, study and class rooms; the attic as a dormitory for the students. On the ridge of the roof was an open turret in which hung the college bell — that sweet-voiced bell which pealed for matin song from a small belfry near the Mississippi in 1857 and accompanied the community in all its wanderings. And today fifty years after its arrival, its voice is as clear as it was then; and it hangs in the northwest turret of the college buildings, still doing service as a college bell. The jubilee class will most assuredly not forget to decorate the good old bell with a wreath of water lilies.

Rt. Rev. Thomas L. Grace laid the foundation stone of the building on July 19, 1866; on February 1, 1867, the community left the "old farm" and made its home in the new structure. The buildings near St. Cloud had been destroyed by fire on February 20, 1866; the frame-house and chapel were taken apart and transported to the new site, and thus all immediate temptations to migrate were effectually disposed of.

Abbot Boniface Wimmer, during his sojourn in Rome in 1865, negotiated for the elevation of the St. Cloud priory to an abbey; his efforts were successful and on August 3, 1866 the Holy See erected the abbey and authorized the Fathers to elect their first abbot. On December 12, 1866, they assembled at the old farm and elected the Very Rev. Rupert Seidenbush, then Prior of St. Vincent's abbey. This selection was approved by the Holy See March 15, 1867; two days later followed a decree authorizing the name of "St. Louis on the Lake" for the abbey.

THE ALUMNI

The students before 1867 speak of themselves as students of "old" St. John's. Few in number, their deeds at college fill no volumes. No annual catalogues were printed; local newspapers preserve scarcely a trace of the early institution. The first school-year was opened with an attendance of five pupils; for a few years this number did not grow appreciably. For a short time as many as twenty students were enrolled.

In the absence of complete and authentic records, only a partial list of the early alumni can be given:

A. and H. Berlemann; two brothers, had been students at St. Vincent's and returned to that institution when the Indian troubles broke out in 1862;

Peter Droitcour;

Henry Duerr;

Joseph Duerr; became a schoolteacher and taught in various parts of the State;

Stephen Engels;

Anthony Edelbrock; subsequently Abbot;

Joseph Edelbrock; deceased;

Dan. Elberth;

Louis Elberth;

Henry J. Emmel, of Spring Hill;

Louis Emmel, died as a druggist in New York city;

Stephen Ethen, of Cold Springs, deceased;

Stephen Fiedler, of St. Joseph;

Edward Francis;

Edward Goerger, of St. Cloud;

Alfred Jordan;

John Kaufmann;

Henry Klostermann;

Christian Looser;

Theodore Lueke;

Conrad A. Marschall, became a schoolteacher;

B. Michel;

Frank Minar;

Frank Molitor;

August Mockenhaupt, of St. Cloud; died 1902;

Gustav Mockenhaupt, of St. Cloud, attended about 1862: subsequently finished his studies at St. Francis seminary, near Milwaukee, and was pastor of Centralia, Ill. at the time of his death, September 26, 1868;

Paul Mockenhaupt of St. Cloud; at present a merchant in Chicago;

Robert Mockenhaupt of St. Cloud, at present in Los Angeles, Cal.

Henry Robbers, of St. Cloud;

P. Ruppi;

Henry Schmidt;

Andrew Stalberger, of Lake George;

Valentine Stimmller, now P. Valentine, O. S. B.;

John Teller;

Frank Vrabeck.

Despite the poverty of the pioneer institution, its alumni have always cherished their Alma Mater and have shown their loyalty in word and deed. To some of them, especially to Mr. H. J. Emmel, the present generation owes a debt of gratitude for reminiscences of the early days; among others a pencil sketch of the buildings at St. Cloud in 1861.

CHAPTER II.

RECONSTRUCTION — SCHOOL-YEARS 1867 – 1875

1867 – '68

The first abbot of St. Louis on the Lake was solemnly inducted into the abbatial office by Bishop G. A. Carrell, of Covington, Ky. at St. Vincent's abbey on May 30, 1867, left for the West on June 1 and arrived at his abbey on the 13th of that month. On July 24 following, arrived P. Augustine Burns and the cleric, Fr. Alexius Edelbrock, who as Anthony Edelbrock was one of the first students of "old" St. John's. He had come back to support the new abbot in the reorganization of the college, which during the last three years had all but gone out of existence.

Although the stone building was unassuming in appearance and fitted with few comforts, it was deemed quite an achievement forty years ago. But its isolation was considered an invaluable advantage, despite the great distance which visitors, baggage, provisions etc. had to be carried over pioneer-day roads.

Abbot Rupert lost no time in placing the institution into public view and both the *Wanderer* and *North Western Chronicle*, the only Catholic papers in the State, carried advertisements of the institution. That which appeared in the *Chronicle* of July 13, 1867 read as follows:

"St. John's College. Under the charge of the Benedictine Fathers, of the abbey of St. Louis on the Lake, situa-

ted in the most healthy region of the State of Minnesota, will commence its half-yearly regular course of studies on the Second Day of September. Admission Fee, \$5.00; Yearly Pension \$175. Payable half-yearly in advance. No extra charges except for medical attendance, medicine, books and stationery. For advice address Rt. Rev. Rupert Seidenbush, O. S. B., Abbot, Clinton, P. O., Stearns Co., Minn." (Clinton was the name of the post office at St. Joseph.) This advertisement was launched into publicity without an editorial comment or "send-off" of any description.

On September 2, as announced, the students assembled and the machinery of the "republic of letters" was set in operation. The abbot of the monastery was *ex-officio* President of the college: the management, however, was in the hands of the director, also styled President, the late P. Wolfgang Northman, who since his ordination in 1865 had been pastor at St. Joseph until he was called to the College in July 1867. Fr. Valentine Stimmier was disciplinarian and study-keeper. The teaching faculty consisted of P. Wolfgang, P. Alexius (ordained Sept. 29) Fr. Valentine, two secular clergymen, Rev. Dr. Aylward, Rev. J. Kearney and a Mr. Stein.

The curriculum comprised the following branches: Christian Doctrine, two classes; Latin, four classes; Greek, two classes; English Rhetoric; Grammar, two classes; Elocution; Reading and Spelling, three classes; German Rhetoric; German Grammar and Reading, two classes; French, two classes; Geometry; Algebra; Arithmetic, four classes; Book-keeping, two classes; History, two classes; Penmanship; Drawing; Music — Piano, Violin, Brass Instruments, and Vocal Music.

P. Wolfgang chiefly taught Music; P. Alexius, Classics; Dr. Aylward, English branches; Rev. Kearney, Mathematics; Mr. Stein, German, and the student, Andrew Schiffrer — who later entered the Order as Fr. Vincent — Drawing.

From the range and variety of branches taught, it is

evident the College from the first sought to meet the needs of the people in whose midst it was built: there was a preparatory course for the young man who was satisfied to "plough his patrimonial fields," a book-keeping class for the youth preparing for commercial pursuits, a classical course for aspirants to the learned professions. That some of these classes enjoyed a very slender attendance, may easily be imagined. A special theological department had not yet been organized, but there were two students for the course—Jos. B. Cotter and Fr. Valentine O. S. B., who received private instruction in theology and kindred branches. Fifty-one students were enrolled during this year; they are:

Abb, John	Hemmisch, Mat.	Schaller, Francis
Beez, Joseph	Hofbauer, John	Schiffrer, Andrew
Betzold, Joseph	Huhn, Martin	Schleper, Tobias
Bohn, William	Just, G.	Schmit, Anthony
Brennan, William	Kerst, Conrad	Schmoeger, Max.
Broker, Ignatius	Latsch, Francis	Schott, Martin
Corrigan, Severin	Leuthard, Joseph	Schwartz, Frank
Cotter, Joseph B.	McIntire, Martin	Shanley, John
Crever, Constantine	Mitsch, George	Sheare, Sylvester
DeMeules, Louis	Moosbrugger, Anth.	Simonitsch, Mat.
Doheny, Walter	Muggli, Edward	Stimmler, Valentine
Donovan, James	Pendy, Alex.	Stockard, John
Dreher, Otto	Pendy, John	Tenvoorde, William
Erkens, Frederic	Pross, William	Walz, Joseph
Greven, Ignatius	Reiss, George	Watry, Dominic
Griebler, Francis	Reitmeyer, Vincent	Weitzel, Joseph
Helhake, Joseph	Robbers, Henry	Williams, Charles.

Of these, J. Abb is a priest of the diocese of Green Bay and chaplain of St. Vincent's Hospital in that city; Sev. J. Corrigan, is a well known Western physicist and astronomer, in St. Paul; L. J. DeMeules, a former president of the St. John's Alumni Association, is traveling salesman for the house of G. R. Newell, Minneapolis, and resides at St. Cloud; Otto Dreher for many years was teacher and organist at St. Joseph's church, Chicago; now retired from service; F. Erkens, whose son, Father Albert, is the present Director of St. John's, lives in Portland, Oregon;

J. Shanley is Bishop of Fargo, N. D.; George Mitsch subsequently graduated from a college of Pharmacy in Philadelphia, was proprietor of a drug store in St. Paul, also for some time Fire Commissioner of that city and President of the St. John's Alumni Association, he is still among the living; Vincent Reitmeyer died as a member of the Society of Jesus April 17, 1888 at Santa Clara, Cal; John Hofbauer, distinguished for his musical attainments, entered the Benedictine Order and after many years of useful service at the institution, died July 17, 1901. Joseph Leuthard, known in the Order as Father Meinrad, fell a victim during the small pox epidemic at Melrose Nov. 28, 1881. Frank Schwartz, in the Order Fr. Edmund, died of consumption before ordination Nov. 17, 1872. Fr. Valentine Stimmller, for a number of years pastor of various congregations in Stearns county and in St. Paul (1875-87) is chaplain in a convent at Frontenac, Minn. Dominic Watry, who was Fr. Placidus in the Order, died in the second year of his priesthood, August 25, 1876. Martin McIntire and Max Schmoeger died before they had finished their classical course. A. Moosbrugger became a prominent County official of Stearns county and died 1897. J. B. Cotter is Bishop of Winona. Conrad Kerst of St. Paul, died 1891. Frank Schaller has made St. John's his home and is still in the employ of the institution.

Classes began to recite at an early hour in the morning and each recitation consumed one hour. An oral examination was held semiannually. One day each week — Thursday — was allotted for recreation, for which there was ample room in the broad forest and on the lake.

One of the students of '68, C. J. Williams, thus describes conditions at and about St. John's: "Things were primitive in those days at that temple of learning. I remember this because on the morning after my arrival I heard of an Indian encampment along the lake-shore, some half mile distant from the college and being of an investigating turn of mind, resolved to visit it forthwith, which I did.

On my return I was informed that I had been out of 'bounds.' In the guilelessness of my childish nature, I asked where the line ran. As it was as imaginary as a parallel of longitude and much harder to find, and as it was easier for the authorities to forgive me than to answer my question, I was excused.

Our base ball grounds were at the college gate. They were constructed like an angry porcupine's back. The frantic efforts of a fielder to chase down a ball in its crazy career through the array of maple stumps with which the diamond was studded, would be a revelation to the champions at St. John's today. The multiplicity of caroms was appalling. There was some relief for the outs in the rule which retired a base-runner hit by a batted ball, for the man whose prowess at the home plate had sent the sphere on its wild course, was apt to find it going toward him before he got very far on his journey. The woodman's axe has changed the face of nature in that locality now. I am reminded that sergeant John Pendy (see list above) of the St. Paul police, used to handle that implement very artistically and effectively. When the boys discovered a particularly obnoxious monarch of the forest, John's Celtic brawn and genius was called into requisition, and like his ancestors in the old land, he cleared the way."

In this way Mr. Wiliams continues unraveling the web of the past, describing impressions and experiences of a young man on the alert to mingle the monotony of class routine with all the enjoyments nature offered. The lake, especially, fascinated him and here is his account of an experience. "It was upon this lake that I had my first experience in fish-spearing. My entire loss of taste for fish dates from that hour. I don't know why it was necessary to choose a dark, dismal, shivery night for the purpose, but such it was. A 'scow' boat was used for transportation, probably because it was slower and could impart more doleful misery to its freight than any other known vessel. It was rowed by the unhappy oarsmen with an ac-

tion and effect like that of an unreliable lever worked on a wabbly fulcrum against an obstinate counterforce. The moving spirit of the expedition stood, like ancient Neptune with his trident at the prow, only in fuller dress; he did the spearing. It is always necessary in order to clear the spear of its catch, to slop a quart of thirty degree lake-water in your neighbor's shoe or down his neck or to fondle him on his cheek with the slimy spoil. This I learned that night. I also learned the larger kind of turtle was a social animal, but of uncertain temper and with an unconquerable desire to hold on to something. The turtle is partial to fingers. After several hours of "sport" in company with the rest I regained the college, tired, wet, cold and sleepy, and with an uncomfortable knowledge that my appetite was wide awake and the butler fast asleep. Ever after I declined participating in this exhilarating pastime, preferring to spend my evenings with pagan poets whose society was a joyful relief after the company of a madman who wielded a successful fish-spear at night."*

The lake had many attractive and many secluded haunts, each of which was dubbed with a special name — Caesar's Bay, Meier's Bay, Ignatius Lake, Doctor's Island. The name of this little island, upon which a chapel was built in 1873, was given in memory of Dr. Aylward, who, it seems, did not disdain to partake in the simple sports of that day. One report attributes the origin of the name to the Doctor's catching a 30 pound (?) fish near the island: another, that he dropped his gold-rimmed spectacles into the waves off the island and never recovered them.

There was at least one great festivity during the school-year. Abbot Rupert Seidenbush had gone to Europe before the college was opened in September 1867 and returned in April 1868. Faculty and students conspired to make his return memorable. They decorated the building with inscriptions, transparencies and garlands; the brass band, composed of some six pieces, took position in the

* St. J. U. Record, Vol. II pp. 22

bell turret and with the perennially soothing strains of "Home, Sweet Home" gladdened his second entrance into the institution. Bon-fires brightened the sky in the evening.

Towards the end of June examinations were held, the results of which were published in the *N. W. Chronicle*, issue of June 27, and of *Der Wanderer* of the same date. The Roll of Honor was headed by the name of John Shanley, followed by that of Martin McIntire. The relative excellence of the students in each class was marked by the terms "most distinguished" and "distinguished." Honors were awarded in thirty-six classes.

June 24th was Commencement day or as it was familiarly called "Exhibition" day; for it was one of the fashions of the age to make an impressive demonstration at the close of the school-term. The students were prepared to make a fine exhibition but there was no hall for the great audience, no stage for themselves. A shady, sheltered place was selected on the south side of the building, towards the lake; here a stage was hurriedly improvised that savored of the best features of the early Grecian theatre. The *North Western Chronicle* reported the event in its issue of July 4, as follows: — "On Monday of last week the first annual exhibition of St. John's College, situated in Clinton, Stearns Co., Minn. took place under the most flattering circumstances. About 350 persons were assembled to witness the performance, which we are informed was highly creditable to both students and teachers. The Band belonging to the College, but a few months in existence discoursed most excellent music on the occasion. The exercises commenced at 9 o'clock A. M. The following is the programme in full:

PROGRAMME

Overture, St. Cloud Orchestra

Introductory address: Jos. Cotter

"Cherry Bounce": a comic piece preformed by M. Huhn F.

Griebler, C. Kerst, H. Robbers, G. Mitsch, I. Broker
Violin Solo—by J. Hofbauer
A treatise on History—by J. Shanley
Duett (comic)—F. Griebler and J. Hofbauer
Nante Strumpf (German comic)—performed by F. Schwartz, A. Moosbrugger and D. Watry.
Music by the Orchestra
Violin Solo—by J. Hofbauer
Duett; “Hear Me Norma”—by F. Griebler and J. Hofbauer
Harvest Storm, (a drama)—performed by W. Brennan, J. Donovan, C. Williams, C. Crever, J. Greven, F. Schwartz, J. Shanley, G. Reis, Jos. Waltz and J. B. Cotter
Music by the Orchestra
Die Vogelorgel (a German farce)—performed by A. Moosbrugger, F. Schwartz, G. Reis.
Duett (Departing Friends)—by Griebler and Hofbauer
Music by the Orchestra
Farewell address—by A. Moosbrugger
Music by the Orchestra

Vacation began; the students departed for their homes; the Band went to St. Paul and furnished the music for the picnic of the Assumption parish on July 4th. There was no vacation at the College, however. The stone building had grown too narrow; an extension was added to the north side. Bowlder construction was abandoned for brick, which were manufactured in the immediate vicinity of the institution. The addition was 100x40 feet, with cellarage, two stories and an attic. The style was severely simple—anything more elaborate would have been out of keeping with the wild grandeur of surrounding nature. For some time the first floor of the addition (at present the southern wing) to which a story was added after the cyclone of 1894, served as a dining room for the students, the second floor as study halls and the attic as a dormitory and trunk room.

1868-69

The new building was not finished when the next class arrived in September. It was under roof, however, by November and was partly occupied. Two months after

opening there were sixty-five students in attendance. (*Der Wanderer*, Nov. 7, 1868.) With the increase of accommodations, the rates for tuition were also raised: the sum payable for annual tuition was now \$180; for instruction in music and use of the instrument per session, \$10.

It is a mistake to suppose the institution grew wealthy on such an income, for a number of the ecclesiastical students whose expenses were paid from diocesan seminary collections were given the benefit of a lower rate and there were not a few poor students who were unable to offer any pecuniary compensation whatever.

The staff of professors was increased by the arrival, in March 1869, of Fr. Ulric Northman, a brother of P. Wolfgang and, like him, an accomplished musician. The students, Messrs. J. B. Cotter and R. Haase, were employed to teach penmanship and drawing.

A theological seminary was organized in the fall of 1868. The first students were Messrs. J. B. Cotter, R. Haase, J. Hesse, J. Holzer, J. McGlone and the two clerics, Fr. Valentine and Fr. Ulric. Fr. Valentine was ordained priest in March. P. Alexius was instructor in Moral Theology and several other branches in the course, and Dr. Aylward in Dogmatic Theology. Dr. Aylward died on Good Friday 1887 at St. Patrick's rectory, Montreal.

In March the State Legislature authorized the institution to confer degrees. The Act is entitled "An Act to authorize the Trustees of St. John's Seminary to confer degrees and grant diplomas," and specifies:

Sec. I. That the board of trustees of St. John's Seminary shall have the power to confer such degrees and grant such diplomas in their discretion as are usual in colleges and universities.

Sec. II. This act shall take effect immediately.

APPROVED MARCH 5, 1869.*

St. Patrick's day was celebrated with as much magnificence as the simplicity of the West afforded. A report in

* *Special Laws of Minn.* 1869 p. 363.

the *N. W. Chronicle* says: "The professors and students of the college, together with the Brothers of the Abbey celebrated St. Patrick's day by attending High Mass in the morning, dispensing with study and labor during the day and indulging in the thoughts and memories that spontaneously spring up as the hallowed associations of the past or the fond hopes for the future presented them to view. At 4 P. M. all sat down to an entertainment gotten up expressly for the occasion by the faculty of the institution and which was in every way worthy of the day, the place and those who presented it. During the feast the college band discoursed sweet music and the choir burst forth with the most rapturous songs, the joy of the college students celebrating, the eloquent and appropriate remarks of the speakers, the feast of reason and flow of soul of the professors, taken altogether served to transplant all into an enchanted place, where a spring of perpetual youth washed away all the ills that flesh is heir to." Which report, incidentally, bears witness that in those cradle days there were some scribes possessed of no mean skill in blarney.

There was about this time a pet bear at the college: he answered to the name of Muro, was droll and playful and enjoyed the freedom of the place. Gus Beaulieu was his trainer. Muro would appear on the scene, in season and out of season, in the dining room, in the class room, in the dormitory. During the two years of his sojourn here he had not been known to do any harm, and every human being had instinctively been kind to him. Towards the end of the school year,—on June 2.—one of the students, Sylvester Sheare of St. Paul, happened to be playing with the beast; he struck the animal which, infuriated by such unusual treatment, pursued him, overtook him at the lake shore and bit him in the throat. The boy died almost immediately and was taken to St. Paul for interment June 5. Muro was promptly put out of existence by a musket shot.

This sad episode cast a gloom over the closing weeks of the term, and seems to be the reason why the celebra-

tion of St. Boniface day (June 5) was omitted this year. Nevertheless, the semi-annual examinations were held and the academic year was solemnly closed by an exhibition on St. John's day, June 24. A report of the results of the examination was published in the *N. W. Chronicle*.

In a spacious hall erected for the purpose near the lake about 700 (?) visitors had assembled. The programme included: "The Plot of Potztausend, a comedy; "Nach Cayenne, a farce; "A Sudden Arrival," a farce; speeches and musical selections, followed by the distribution of "premiums." Among the visitors at the College during the annual commencement were the Rt. Rev. Bishop Grace, who arrived at the College from St. Joseph, where he had officiated at the ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the new church; Rev. John Ireland, St. Paul, Rev. Jas. Gerrick, of Minneapolis and several Benedictine Fathers from various points in Stearns County.

During this year there were enrolled 84 students, 40 of whom were preparing for the sacred ministry and the rest for secular pursuits. Among the students were, "Gus" Beaulieu, some time deputy U. S. marshal and known as "the watchdog of the Chippewas" in the Indian country; John Caulfield, Secretary of the St. Paul Water Co., Francis Cotter, brother of Jos. B.; Wm. Markoe, who is prominent in Catholic movements in the West and is a frequent contributor to Catholic papers and magazines; Francis Mershman, who has been connected with the College as a professor ever since, and Nicholas Steil at present P. Gregory, Subprior of the Abbey.

1869 — 70.

The two buildings hitherto occupied by the College soon proved close quarters. It was desirable to have the ecclesiastical seminary entirely separated from the other departments; moreover, there was no sufficient supply of recitation rooms and, above all, it was necessary to separate the

monastery from the school. Work was begun on a new building in the summer of 1869, but such difficulties were encountered in digging for the foundation that work proceeded slowly and the building was not ready for use until fall 1871.

In October 1869 five new members of the Order arrived: Frs. Vincent Schiffrer Edmund Schwartz, Bernard Locnikar and Alphonse Kuisle, who had just finished the year of noviciate at St. Vincent's. These, together with Frs. Boniface Moll and Simplicius Wimmer, who had arrived in June, formed a welcome addition to the staff. A correspondent informs *Der Wanderer* (issue of Nov. 20, 1869) that the attendance by November 14 was 78; that the quarterly examination had just been held and the reports sent to the parents of the students.

New Year's day 1870 was saddened by the death of Max Schmoeger, one of the most exemplary and popular students of the classical course. From a brief obituary written for the press by Fr. Boniface, it appears that Schmoeger was in the twenty-second year of his age when he died. He had left his parents and home in Europe in February 1868 with the intention of becoming a religious and a priest, but a short and severe illness cut him off in the flower of his youth. He rests in the common cemetery at St. John's. Many years later his aged mother begged that a flower or some dust from the grave be sent her, that she might have some remembrance of her child that slept in a far distant country.

On February 9 there was a public disputation, or debate, conducted by the seminarians in presence of the Rt. Rev. Abbot and faculty. Nine theses covered questions relating to the marks of the Church, its infallible teaching authority, the Primacy of St. Peter and the authority and infallibility of the Roman Pontiffs. Record is also extant of a debate on February 24 of the question, Resolved, that capital punishment should be abolished. The disputants were J. B. Cotter, President of the Grace

Literary Association, supported by two assistants, for the affirmative and J. Keenan with similar support, for the negative; while P. Wolfgang presided and decided the debate upon its merits.

St. Patrick's day was not forgotten: High Mass was sung in the morning and the Rt. Rev. Abbot preached in the afternoon. Later there were speeches, songs and instrumental music.

On May 8 young Ignatius Hole in the Day — or Fairday, as his name appears in the college books — son of the famous Chippewa chief who was killed in 1868, and at the time a student at St. John's, was baptized by Rev. I. Tomazin. On the same occasion the student Robert Kelly received the sacrament of baptism; his father was present during the ceremonies.

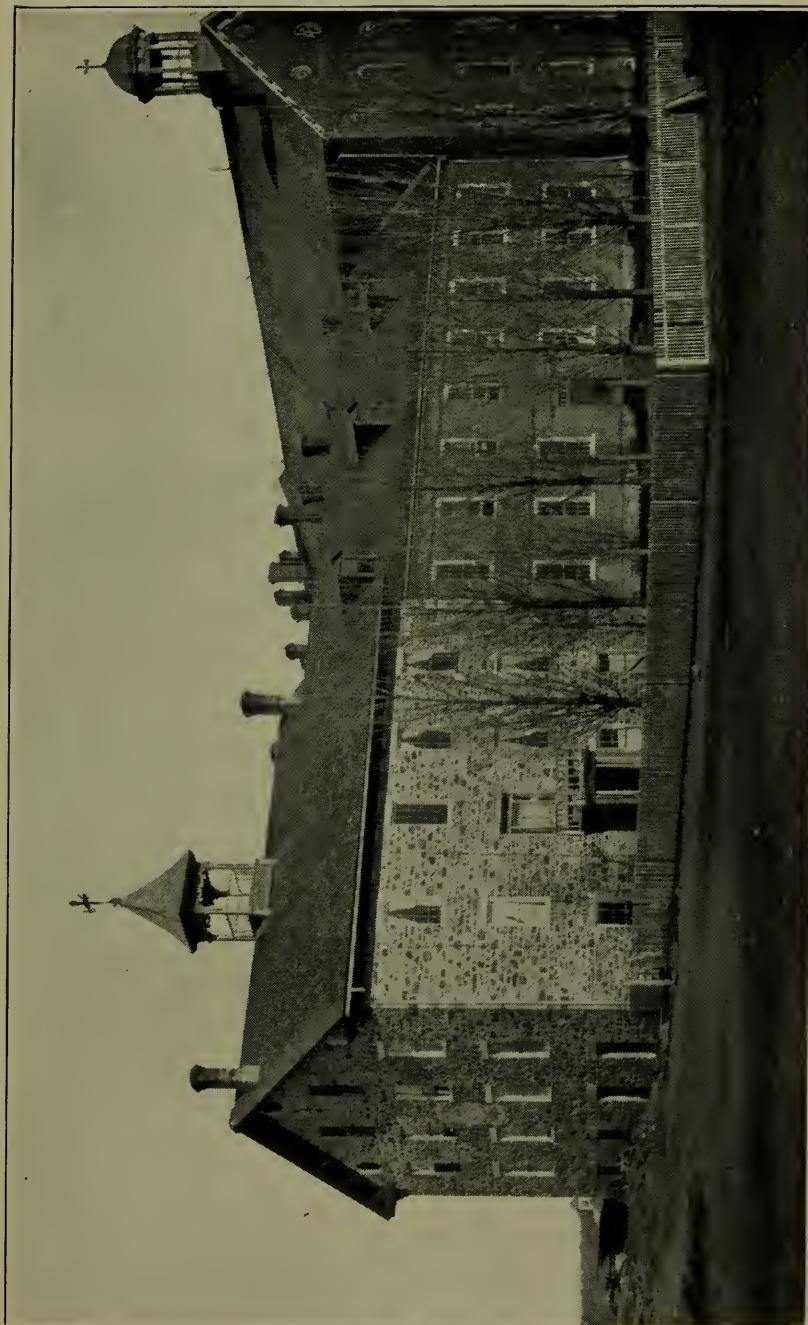
The St. Boniface Literary Association which was founded in the fall of 1869 prepared a celebration of the great Apostle of Germany on June 6. "Spectator" informs the press that the Association then had about forty members. In the morning of the feast the entire student body attended at solemn High Mass and the members of the Association received Holy Communion. The afternoon was pleasantly spent in a picnic with music and declamations on the Eirenesos (Isle of Peace), known later as the "British Isles."

It had hitherto been customary to close school for the summer on St. John's day, June 24; the present year was an exception, for the exhibition took place on June 28. Several hundred people from the neighboring country flocked in to witness the event. Rain early in the morning threatened to mar the joy of the day, but the sun blazed out from behind the clouds towards midday and the exhibition began. The students, preceded by the flag and band, marched to the hall where an entertainment was given, followed by the distribution of premiums.

For the first time in the history of the College an Annual Catalogue was issued this year. It was a neat

little publication from the press of "*The Wanderer*," St. Paul, and in its 24 pages affords an insight into the doings of the College thirty-seven years ago. In the opening statement is to be found the information that "St. John's is situated at a distance of eighty-six miles from St. Paul, seventy-four miles of which are accessible by the St. Paul & Pacific Rail Road, the remaining twelve miles by stage or private conveyance." St. Joseph, the nearest town, was the station for mail; there was no railway or telegraph line west of the river as yet. The attractiveness of the locality is described thus: "The highly picturesque grounds of the College border to the south on a beautiful lake, six miles in circumference and abounding in fish. To the west is Lake Watab from which flows the Watab River, beautiful in its windings through the valleys as the Peneus through the Thessalian Tempe of old." It announces that "the main building now under construction, will be completed this year. It will be one hundred feet long by fifty feet wide and four stories in height. It is almost superfluous to add that the play-grounds are more than ample enough for all kinds of recreation."

Under the heading of "Regulations" were rules regarding degrees, examinations and quarterly reports, permission to leave College during the term, use of tobacco, and mail. The "Terms" for a session of five months were: for Tuition and Board, \$90; for Washing and Bedding, \$5; for Drawing, \$3; for Music and use of instruments, \$10. Not unfrequently colleges in those days specified with what articles of clothing and other effects the student should be furnished when entering school: some required that the student should furnish his own bedding; one, at least, suggested that each pupil have a full supply of postage stamps. In the catalogue under consideration is the provision: Every student must be provided with four suits of clothing, differing according to the seasons: six shirts, six pairs of stockings, six pocket-handkerchiefs, six towels, two pairs shoes or boots, two pairs slippers, clothes



ST. JOHN'S, 1868 - 1873

and blacking brushes, and one pair swimming drawers." Fortunately, the pupil whose purse did not permit him to set up a wardrobe of such magnificent proportions as indicated in the above suggestion, was not refused admission.

The "Course of Studies" is concisely stated on one page: it comprised three divisions — the Elementary School, the Classical Course, and the Theological Course. In the Elementary School instruction was given in Spelling, Reading, Penmanship, Arithmetic and Catechism. No time was specified in which this course could be finished; students were advanced into the other courses as their attainments warranted. The collegiate or Classical course comprised six classes: the Sixth, or lowest, was styled the First Class of Elements, and it was followed by the Second Class of Elements, Humanities, Poetry, Rhetoric and Philosophy. The branches studied in the lowest class of this course were Latin grammar, English grammar, German grammar, Bible History, Geography and Arithmetic. The Latin course was finished in five years; also the English and German courses. History was a subject throughout the entire course. Arithmetic was finished in the second year, Algebra in the fourth; Geometry and Trigonometry were the highest branches of mathematics taught and occupied the fifth year. Greek was introduced in the third year and Rhetoric in the fourth. For students who did not intend to prepare for the ministry there was a class in Bookkeeping. The first, or highest class studied mental and moral Philosophy.

The theological course comprised Dogmatic and Moral Theology, Ecclesiastical History and Sacred Scripture, and was finished in three years.

In the list of the Faculty, P. Wolfgang is styled President and P. Alexius, Vice President; P. Valentine and Fr. Edmund are mentioned as disciplinarians. P. Ulric is mentioned as professor of Music, Latin, History etc; his name is followed by that of Rev. J. Meurs, a secular clergyman; then follow four younger members of the

Order, Frs. Boniface, Simplicius, Alphonse and Bernard (subsequently Abbot and President). Mr. J. B. Cotter was employed as professor of Arithmetic and Penmanship, Mr. J. B. Nealis, as professor of Algebra; Mr. W. Brennan, of Arithmetic, Mr. F. Mershman, of Geometry, Messrs J. Keenan and J. Leuthard as professors of Bookkeeping and Mr. N. Steil as teacher of Drawing and Architecture.

Although the institution had been authorized to confer degrees early in 1869, the right had not hitherto been exercised. On June 24, 1870 the degree of Master of Arts was conferred on Fr. Boniface Moll and the degree of Bachelor of Arts on Fr. Simplicius Wimmer, Alphonse Kuisle, Bernard Locnikar and Messrs. J. B. Cotter and J. Nealis, both of St. Paul, Minn.

Three student organizations are noticed in the Catalogue: the Sodality of the B. V. M., the Grace Literary Association and the St. Boniface Literary Association. A special chapter will be devoted to the history of the various organizations, religious, literary, musical and dramatic.

Space is also given the programme of the "Third Annual Exhibition," the leading features of which, aside from the music, were the Introductory Address by J. Caulfield: two farces, "The People's Lawyer" and "Lord McDonald"; a Latin essay on the utility of Philosophy by Mr. V. Reithmeyer, a Greek oration on Virtue by W. Maehren and a French essay by N. Steil on the Study of Languages; the Valedictory was delivered by J. B. Cotter.

Then follows the Catalogue of Students who were in attendance during the academic year '69-'70. It contains 94 names: 12 for the ecclesiastical and 82 for the classical course. Four of the Seminarians were destined to exercise the ministry in the diocese of St. Paul and one in the Vicariate Apostolic of Colorado. Of the classical students the bulk was furnished by Minnesota; the states of Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Kentucky were also represented. Premiums were awarded in 18 branches and 40 classes.

1870-71

The following school year was inaugurated in the second week of September by a Solemn High Mass celebrated by the Rev. President; after which the rules and statutes of the College were read and explained by the President and classes began. Scanty shreds of history remain of this year. On October 5, feast of St. Placidus, the students marched to St. Joe in a body. A venerable old diary tells us there was midnight Mass on Christmas, and that on the three days following, Fr. Boniface Moll received the higher Orders in St. Paul.

The number of students in attendance was gratifying: a correspondent of the press says there were 67 in attendance in the first week in October.

When Pius IX had been despoiled of his temporalities in 1870 by Victor Emmanuel and the Papal States had been pronounced a part of united Italy, millions of faithful Catholics raised their voices in protest against this act of violence. The "first protest from Minnesota" was drawn up and adopted at a meeting of the faculty and students of St. John's. The document fills nearly two columns of *Der Wanderer* (Jan. 21, 1871) and reads in part: "At a meeting of the superiors, faculty and students of St. John's College, on Sunday January 15, 1871 to express their sympathy with the Holy Father, addresses were delivered, a subscription of \$44.65 was taken up, and the following protest read and adopted:

'We the Abbot, superiors, professors and students of St. John's College with utmost aversion behold the injustice done our Holy Father by Victor Emmanuel, the so-called king of Italy, and therefore we raise this solemn protest against the sacrilegious injustice and detestable robbery. We hope that every lover of justice, whatever his creed may be, will join us in raising a voice of protest against this injustice; an injustice, a robbery greater than any that has ever degraded the human race. In making this protest,

we maintain that no potentate of Europe wears the crown with such a well established right as the Pope, whose title to the Patrimony of Peter dates from the gray past and is therefore venerable and sacred. The Holy Father does not hold this Patrimony for his own personal emolument, but for the benefit and interest of the entire Catholic world.... In union with 200 millions of Catholics we protest and assert that the injustice done the Holy Father, his rights, privileges and immunities arouses in us the same feelings as if our own and personal property had been in question."

It is an eloquent and vigorous denunciation of a wrong that deeply affects the entire Catholic communion and stands as a monument of the zeal and loyalty of the class of '71.

On March 4 died the scholastic Martin McIntire after an illness of twenty weeks. At 7 a. m. of March 7 the office of the Dead was recited by the community, after which there was a solemn Requiem Mass, followed by a sermon by P. Alexius. The Rt. Rev. Abbot officiated at the burial.

A Requiem was sung March 16 for a student, Michael Gruber of St. Joseph, Minn., who had died of typhoid fever at his home.

The chapel furniture was increased by the installment of a reed organ of French manufacture on March 20. It did good service in the humble chapel and as late as 1886 in the present church. Fathers Wolfgang and Ulric were both able organists.

St. Patrick's day was celebrated by a solemn High Mass, but as it fell on a Friday in Lent, the secular celebration was transferred to Tuesday following, which was the feast of St. Benedict. On May 18. six students, among them the Indian chief Ignatius Hole-in-the-Day, received their first Holy Communion. June 16, was the feast of the Sacred Heart and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the election of Pope Pius IX. There was solemn High Mass by Prior Benedict, P. Alexius and Fr. Alphonse. P. Alexius

preached an appropriate sermon and the celebration was closed with a *Te Deum*.

The closing exercises of the academic year took place on June 28. According to the catalogue, which in its main features is similar to that of the preceding year, the staff of professors was composed of seventeen members. The only degree conferred this year was that of Bachelor of Arts upon Messrs. Timothy Murphy, Vincent Reitmeyer and William Brennan. The programme of Exhibition day included music, vocal and instrumental, two comedies, 'The Photograph' and "My Cousin Coming forth from his Rural Retreat" and orations in four different languages. F. Cotter delivered the introductory address and Jos. Schulte the valedictory. During the year the total enrollment of students was 96, of whom 15 were in the theological and 81 in all the other courses.

1871-72.

On September 7. work was resumed: the staff had been increased by seven members, Frs. Meinrad Leuthard, Placidus Watry, Francis Mershman, Pancratius Maehren, Paul Rettenmaier and Aloysius Hermanutz. Fr. Meinrad had taken a special course in an Eastern business college and now took charge of the commercial class; Fr. Francis continued to teach mathematics, Fr. Pancratius organized a class in natural philosophy and fitted up a physical cabinet in the stone building, while Frs. Paul and Aloysius conducted classes in languages.

Joy and gloom alternated here as they do in the great world as well. St. Patrick's day was celebrated with speeches and music. In April a bowling alley was installed for the use of the students. On the 7th of the same month the scholastic John Bonne died and was buried on the local cemetery. When two days later the namesday of the Rt. Rev. Abbot was celebrated, there was no music, in token of respect for the memory of the deceased. At the entertainment on the feast of St. Rupert, the drama "Bishop Paulinus" was performed.

For the celebration of St. Boniface day, June 5, a grove at the eastern end of the lake and for many years thereafter called Boniface Place, was selected. There, under the shade of large oaks rustic tables and benches had been set up and there, after the ecclesiastical celebration, the day was to be spent in a gleeful picnic. To the disappointment of all, a heavy rain marred this feature of the celebration and the exercises took place in the hall of the new (main) building. Addresses were delivered in German by Fr. Bernard Locnikar, Fr. Aloysius and Messrs. John Winter and Frank Schlick and a vocal quartette filled the intervals with selections.

"On June 26," says a correspondent of *Der Wanderer* (July 6, 1872), "an exhibition was held at St. John's College. Many friends of the institution had appeared to witness the closing act. All lived in hopes that it would be a fine day, for, it is said, every carriage in St. Cloud had been engaged on the day before, but alas! at three o'clock in the morning of the 26th it began to thunder, lighten and rain. The storm did not interfere with the customary High Mass, at which P. Alexius officiated, assisted by P. Valentine and P. Bernard. At the end of the service, prospects for a pleasant day were still doubtful. What is most surprising is that the visitors who had not yet arrived were not deterred by the bad weather, but came despite rain and almost impassable roads. About one o'clock p. m. the sky grew clear, and the doors of the new exhibition hall were thrown open." This new hall was a plain frame structure on slightly rising ground northeast of the College, was 110 ft. long by 30 wide, without any interior finish, but equipped with a spacious stage, drop-curtain and scenery. It served as an exhibition hall and for other gatherings as late as 1881 but was torn down in 1892.

The programme consisted of musical selections, essays, a sacred drama—"Joseph in Egypt," the drama "Paulinus, Bishop of Nola" (in German) and a farce, "The Naturalist." Mas. Herman Erren pronounced the introductory

address and Mr. P. Kenny the valedictory. Among the essayists were Mr. Alexander Christie, the present Archbishop of Portland and Mr. Max Wurst, later rector of St. Felix's Church, Wabasha, Minn.

The catalogue of 1872 records the name of 22 professors and 106 students; of the latter, 20 were in the theological course and 86 in all the other courses. No degrees were conferred during the year.

During the vacation which followed, the clerics and schoolastics who remained at the College built a chapel of brick on "Doctor's Island," which was henceforth to be called by the title of the chapel "Maris Stella." The building material was carried to the island on boats: on July 11, at four o'clock p. m. the corner stone was placed in position by Fr. Vincent and by the end of July the neat structure was finished. It was about 16 ft. long by 12 ft. wide, in the Gothic style, with ornamental brickwork and a wooden spire, which was painted white. For some reason the interior was not finished at the time and no services were held in it. If it served no other purpose, it lent a soft charm to the landscape, as it gleamed from its deep green setting of foliage and was mirrored in the calm waters at its foot. In 1889 a floor was laid in it, the walls were plastered, a small altar erected and several pictures hung on the walls. Many a stroller on a summer's afternoon found his way to the humble shrine and spent a few moments in devotion to Our Lady of the Lake. The chapel was destroyed by fire in April 1903.

P. Alexius Edelbrock was appointed President of the College at the opening of the school year. P. Wolfgang remained at the institution for some time after retiring from office, continuing to teach music and other branches.

Classwork was resumed on September 7, but the formal opening, reading of the rules, etc. did not take place before the 9th. In the early days of the school year, September 29, Fr. Simplicius Wimmer and Mr. John Nealis, were ordained priests. Both are now dead: Rev. J. Nealis died in

1885 and P. Simplicius on August 5, 1905. On September 30, the students played a match game of base-ball at St. Joseph: there is no record of the score.

On October 3, a solemn Requiem was sung for a deceased sodalist and former student, Christian Gassner, who had died of small pox at Chicago. The Sodality with pious solicitude has never in the long course of years failed to afford what solace it could to its deceased members, and the above instance is mentioned as typical of its practice in this respect.

It is characteristic of the students of that day that they helped themselves and did not like, the redoubtable Captain of Plymouth, "leave it to others," even in such an unromantic enterprise as leveling the campus. They plied the shovel and the pick with an energy that stimulated their appetite and made them feel proud of their handiwork.

On October 30 the students offered their congratulations to P. Wolfgang on the eve of his namesday. Addresses were delivered in Latin, German and English.

For the first time since 1860 the institution mourned the loss of one of the members of the faculty. Fr. Edmund Schwartz, who had been a member of the Order since 1869 and had almost finished the studies of the theological course, was compelled by ill health to suspend studies. During the fall he spent a few weeks visiting his parents in La Crosse, Wis. and there he died November 17. The interment took place at La Crosse.

On November 20 Fr. Bernard, although still a cleric with Minor Orders, was appointed Vice President of the College, which office he held to the end of the academic year.

About this time the St. Vincent extension of the St. Paul & Pacific railway line was finished as far as Melrose. The line passed through the college lands, within a mile of the house, but St. Joseph became and for seven years remained the nearest passenger station. It was a great convenience

in every respect not only for the College but also for the missionary priests.

Early in 1873 the semiannual examinations, which consumed an entire week, were held. "Six classes — the examination of each lasting an hour — were daily disposed of." These examinations were public for the greater part, and were held in the large study-hall, in the presence of all the professors.

St. Boniface day was celebrated in the grove at Boniface Place and no rain came to dampen the pleasure of the occasion. Adam Steffes was marshal of the feast and among the speakers were J. Bassler, N. Steil, M. Wurst and Fr. Simplicius.

June 26 was Exhibition day. The exercises began at 9 o'clock and lasted almost five hours. There was music, vocal and instrumental, followed by addresses, essays and orations, besides two plays, "The Ghost," in three acts, and "Inigo," a German drama in four acts, after which the premiums were distributed. The authoress, "Minnie Mary Lee" of Sauk Rapids, a frequent visitor on such occasions, wrote a report of the celebration for the *N. W. Chronicle*, from which a few extracts will not be entirely devoid of interest: "St. John's, where it is, is a happy surprise," she writes. "You may have heard its name called frequently — have heard that it was prospering, that it had many students—that it was situated some three or four miles from St. Joseph, a small town of little note — but you have no great expectations about it — the people all around about are a farming community, how can anything very astonishing in the educational line have arisen in their midst? Can any good come out of Nazareth? You receive a card invitation to the exhibition. You wonder if it is really worth your while to go. Were it a hundred miles away, you would be more inclined. But right here at home? Still, there is so little of other entertainments, and you start. It is a fine road leading to St. Joe (from St. Cloud,) through fine farms. White houses with green blinds have taken

the place of many a primitive shanty and log-house. Leaving St. Joe, you take the college road which is up and down hill through a magnificent forest. The way does not seem so long, because it is so unusual a one for our State. You admire the tall, graceful trees, as do evidently also the squirrels and birds, whose twitter and music fill the air. There is a long line of carriages winding over hills in front of you and a stream behind as far as you can see. Carriages? Most of them are farm wagons, loaded to the brim with whole families.....

I had thought to tell you something of the exhibition. After all, what is in a school or college exhibition that may be particularly described? Plays and dramas in English and German, well selected and very creditably acted; orations in Greek, Latin, French, German and English, and oh! such music, both plaintive and lively, and all sweet and beautiful.....

No marvel the Germans turn out in crowds: they are proud of St. John's, their sons' Alma Mater. Though they may not go elsewhere, save to Mass, for all the year, they gather up their children and make the pilgrimage. They have something to look forward to and something to remember."—And if the exhibitions of those days with all the labor they involved brightened for a few hours the lives of the good people who came to the college on such occasions, they had some reason for their being.

The catalogue, printed by the *St. Cloud Press*, contains few new features. Twenty professors are mentioned on the staff, among them Mr. Alexander Christie (now archbishop of Portland.) The degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred on Frs. Francis Mershman, Aloysius Hermanutz and Paul Rettenmaier; eight students took the degree of Master of Accounts, which was this year conferred for the first time. The first graduates of the Commercial class were Frank Schlick and William Hamm, of St. Paul, J. J. Byrnes, of Faribault, Peter Fehn, of St. Michael, Thos. Young, of Arlington, Adam Steffes, of Old Mission, Iowa,

William Eversmann, of St. Augusta and Francis Cotter, of Winona. On the roll were the names of 113 students: 11 secular seminarians, 16 regular seminarians (clerics) and 86 students in all other departments—a slight increase over the last year.

1873-74

P. Bernard Locnikar was succeeded in the vice-presidency of the college by P. Ulric Northman, who held the office till spring 1885. Gifted with a sympathetic nature, Father Ulric won and retained the attachment and esteem of all the students year after year. He continued to teach music and developed the musical organizations to such a degree of excellence that they received many a word of commendation from critics.

So quiet was the course of events during the schoolyear, that chroniclers found little to note. The few newspaper articles still preserved are accounts of society elections, celebrations of annual recurrence or an occasional academic effort of some aspiring journalist. From this dearth of data it may be inferred that everyone was seriously at work at the daily tasks in the intellectual workshop. There were, of course, the usual quarterly examinations, the vacations, the feasts to vary the sameness of schoolroom routine.

On exhibition day, June 24, about 600 visitors are reported to have been present: among them the Revs. Joseph Buh, Augustine Wirth, O. S. B., Aloys. Plut and G. Koering, and also "Minnie M. Lee,"* who has left us the

* "MINNIE M. LEE" is the pseudonym of Mrs. Julia A. Wood, one of the few Catholic writers the Northwest has produced. From a sketch written at the time of her death by Mr. H. C. Waite, of St. Cloud, and published in the *St. Cloud Daily Times* March 10, 1903, we gather the following biographical data:—Mrs. Wood was born April 13, 1825 at New London, N. H. She received a fine literary and classical education in the schools of that state and, in 1849, she was married to the late W. H. Wood, who died in 1870. With her husband, she became a resident of Sauk Rapids as early as 1851 and continued to reside there to the end of her life. Under the "nom de plume" of "Minnie Mary Lee" she assisted her husband in the edito-

following description: "Roads were fine, air pure, foliage fresh and fragrant: St. Joseph was reached shortly—thence the road to St. John's winds up hill and down, through forest as tall and southern-like, so varied and charming, so different from our usual scrub-oak tracts, that one thinks it wouldn't matter should it have no end. When, however, the blue lake is discerned through the trees and the Abbey of St. Louis and the College buildings meet the view, one is but glad to alight and look around. Exhibition Hall, a building by itself, is constructed in a unique and original style, which to be understood needs to be seen.

"The St. John's band has become so famous for its excellence that it need not be dwelt upon in praise. Good judges who before never listened to it were surprised and delighted. The violin performer may be regarded simply as a prodigy: one of those geniuses, which now and then arise gifted for astonishing and entertaining us every-day mortals.

"While Norma was being played, a certain lady remarked to her husband: 'There, *that* is the part I never get right.' —That! *You* never play *that*! was the answer. This suggested to me that we might all aver of the music generally —we never heard *that* before.....

"In the grove ample dinners were served to all. Friends held social converse.... Some wandered off to the lake, looking out longingly at the gleam of the white chapel among the trees on the distant island. Some penetrated without leave or license into the pretty garden, where flowers in abundance bloomed."

The closing words of this report recall the garden which

rial management of the "New Era", a weekly paper published at Sauk Rapids. She was also a frequent contributor to magazines and wrote a number of books, chiefly of a controversial character, among others: "The Heart of Myrrha Lake," "Hubert's Wife," "The Brown House of Duffield," "Strayed from the Fold," "Story of Annette." She was a convert to Catholicity and always remained ardently attached to her faith. She died at St. Raphael's Hospital, St. Cloud, March 9, 1903 and was buried at Sauk Rapids.

lay on the south side of the stone-building and which was in charge of the "old gardner," Anton Schaefer. He raised not only garden-truck but bestowed some attention also on the cultivation of plums, crabs and grapes. If there were any moments of sorrow in his life, it was either when fruits refused to grow or when uninvited guests helped themselves under the wings of night. For a quarter of a century he presided over the gardens belonging to the Abbey. The fine garden of 1874 with its pavilion and its orchard disappeared about 1886. The venerable old gardner died at St. John's in 1898.

The catalogue of this year was printed by the *St. Cloud Journal*. For the first time there is mention of a Scientific Course, which, however, coincided largely with the Classical Course, did not include Latin and Greek and substituted the natural sciences. Opportunities were also given for the study of telegraphy. The number of professors was 22. The total attendance of students was 123—13 regular seminarians, 13 secular seminarians, 97 students in all other courses. For the first time, also, there is mention of athletics, such as boating and base-ball, which will be treated in detail elsewhere in this sketch. Only the degree of Master of Accounts was conferred this year and the three graduates were Jas. Kelly, State senator from 1890-94, Peter Engel, the present President of St. John's and Herman Erren, who is at present P. Othmar O. S. B.

The programme for exhibition day was elaborate and rather lengthy. About nine o'clock in the morning the audience sat down to witness the performance of the five-act drama "St. Louis in Chains," which consumed almost three hours in acting. After an hour's intermission for dinner, followed five orations and as many pieces of music and the celebration closed with the conferring of diplomas and awarding of premiums.

During this year the buildings were increased by the addition of a three story wing extending north from the main building.

1874-75

If the attendance at a school may be considered a gauge of its excellence, the authorities had reason to congratulate themselves this year. Scarcely had two months passed before 125 names were on the rolls, and all the departments had a very gratifying number in attendance. A correspondent to a paper writes in December "that the season just passed has been in every respect singularly blessed." From his remarks we also learn that Cecilian music was cultivated at St. John's at that time. "The music on Christmas, as well as on the succeeding feasts, was most select and appropriate and performed in a manner which reflects great credit on the members of the choir. Witt's Mass *In honorem S. Francisci Xaverii* was effectively rendered on Christmas night and Schweitzer's Mass Op. 11 was selected for the Grand High Mass which was celebrated the following morning."

In February 1875 news arrived that Abbot Rupert Seidenbush had been selected by the Holy See as Vicar Apostolic of the newly erected vicariate of Northern Minnesota which comprised "all that part of Minnesota lying north of the southern line of Travers, Stevens, Pope, Stearns, Sherburne, Isanti, and Chisago Counties and that part of Dakota east of the Missouri and White Earth Rivers and north of the southern line of Burleigh, Logan, Lamoure, Ransom and Richland Counties."

Although Abbot Rupert had not been in direct contact with the work of the College, he was well known to the student body and enjoyed their esteem and veneration. He had been witness of their work and spoke many a word of paternal encouragement to them. Much as all were proud of his elevation they keenly regretted that he was to leave St. John's. On May 4 he resigned the abbatial office and on May 30 received episcopal consecration in the church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Cloud, at the hands of

Bishop Heiss of La Crosse who was assisted by Bishops Louis M. Fink O. S. B. and Joseph Dwenger.

On the following day these Rt. Rev. prelates and also Bishops Mrak and Hennessy and a number of priests who had assisted at the consecration ceremonies visited St. John's, where they were given a reception and serenade.

Abbot Rupert Seidenbush was succeeded in office on June 2 by P. Alexius Edelbrock, who had been identified with the work of the institution since 1867. The second Abbot of St. Louis on the Lake had been a student of "old St. John's" during the first two years of its existence, had fled from Minnesota because his father opposed his intention of studying for the priesthood, and had entered St. Vincent's college in 1859, where he finished the classical course and became a member of the Order in 1864. Three years later he followed Abbot Rupert to Minnesota and since that day had given his best efforts to the promotion of the college. Its growth up to this time was in great measure due to him and he was no stranger to the task to which he was now set.

On June 24 the commencement exercises took place. They were graced by the presence of Bishop Rupert Seidenbush who on the morning of that day for the first time administered the sacrament of Confirmation to a class of twenty-five students. The exhibition exercises, as in the preceding year, occupied a good part of the day. A Christian drama: "Sebastian; or the Roman Martyr" was performed in the forenoon and after an intermission of one hour for dinner followed a programme of music and orations, and the distribution of premiums. The degree of Master of Arts was conferred on Frs. Francis Mershman and Paul Rettenmaier; that of Bachelor of Arts on seven and that of Master of Accounts on fifteen candidates.

The catalogue, printed by the Pioneer Press Co. of St. Paul, contained a lithograph of the buildings as they were to appear in their finished state. The group standing in 1875 was to be symmetrically completed by the addition, at

the northern extremity, of a building similar to the stone-house at the southern end. Fortunately that plan was never carried into execution, Still the lithograph is valuable and does honor to the crayon artist. No photographic view of the buildings seems to have been taken before 1881 and no reproduction of a photographic view appeared in the catalogues before 1889.

On the list of professors are seventeen names, with a single exception members of the Order. The institution was outgrowing the primitive age when it was constrained to seek help from the outside. The total enrollment of students was 168—14 secular seminarians, 16 regulars, 138 in all other courses. Of the theological students, five were ordained during the year.

From August 5-10 Bishop Seidenbush was at St. John's and during that time, for the first time in its history, the higher Orders were conferred there. Candidates for Orders had hitherto been sent to St. Paul and all, with the exception of Fathers Cornelius and Bruno of whom mention was made in the opening chapter of this history, were ordained by Bishop Grace. It may be added that the Abbots of the American congregation of Benedictines are empowered to confer the Minor Orders on their own subjects. As Abbot Alexius' elevation to the abbatial office had not yet been approved by the Holy See (it was approved August 15.) Bishop Seidenbush conferred the Minor Orders. On August 5, Frs. Gregory Steil, William Eversmann, Willibord Mahowald and Messrs. William Brockmeyer—who subsequently became a member of the Order as P. Augustine—and John Mayer received Minor Orders. On August 6, the order of sub-deaconship was conferred on P. Paul Rettenmaier, Aloysius Hermanutz, Ignatus Wesseling, Bonaventure Schloeter, E. P. Schneider and P. J. Lynch. On August 8, the same candidates, together with P. Francis Mershman, were ordained deacons, and on Aug. 10. P. Ignatius Wesseling, O. S. B., Bonaventure Schloeter, O. S. B., and Revs. E. P. Schneider and Patrick J. Lynch



RT. REV. RUPERT SEIDENBUSH, O. S. B.

were ordained priests. "The event was a happy one to all concerned. On that occasion the esteemed prelate exercised, for the first time, the high prerogative of his distinguished office, sending Levites to serve at the altar and laborers to work in the Master's Vineyard: the professors witnessed with pride and pleasure, the honors conferred upon the objects of their long and anxious solicitude and regarded the event as the earthly reward of their labors and zealous care."

On Wednesday, August 11, Father Lynch celebrated his first Mass in the College chapel.

CHAPTER III.

THE SECOND ABBOT AND PRESIDENT 1875 — 1889.

1875 — '76

Abbot Alexius Edelbrock retained the active presidency of the College during his entire administration which lasted till the end of the year 1889. The character of his new work did not permit him to continue on the teaching staff. But he kept a watchful eye upon the institution and addressed the students a number of times, especially when the quarterly or semiannual bulletins were publicly read.

The fourth building was now finished and became the quarters of the religious community. A great part of the old stone house was taken up by seminarians' rooms, a music room and an infirmary; on the first floor of the second building were four small class rooms and a lavatory; on the second floor were two study halls; in the attic was a dormitory. In the basement of the middle building were two refectories and the kitchen which supplied both; on the first floor were a guest-room, two music rooms, two large class-rooms — one of which contained the libraries of the Sodality and of the two literary societies; on the second floor were the rooms of the principal officials and the stationery room; the third floor was a dormitory.

Large and imposing as the buildings were, they still were lacking in many accommodations. No one seemed to miss the electric light and elevators, but of a cold winter's

day the insufficiency of an iron box-stove became apparent. Moreover, there were no waterworks; drinking water was drawn from a fine well situated about fifty feet west of the second building, and water for domestic uses was brought in barrels from the lake. The present generation which finds every desirable convenience indoors cannot realize some of the little hardships incident to student life a quarter of a century ago. All this was soon to be changed.

In the main, the order of daily exercises was the same as at present. The hour of rising was 5 o'clock; at 5:30 morning prayers and Mass, followed by breakfast; recreation till 7; studies or classes — one hour each — till 11; dinner; a short visit to the chapel; recreation till 1; classes till 3; lunch — a slice of dry bread; 4-6 classes; supper; recreation till 7:30: studies till 8:30; bed-time. On Sundays the students rose at 5:30, attended High Mass and heard a sermon at 6; studies from 10-12; after dinner recreation till 2:30; afternoon services; 5-6 religious instruction (also on Thursdays). Thursday and Saturday afternoons were devoted to recreation, which was interrupted by studies from 2:30 -3 and from 5-6.

On entering, the pupil was examined by either the President or the Vice President and, according to his age or attainments, was placed in either the Senior or the Junior study-hall. Each of these halls was under supervision of a disciplinarian and an assistant. For some time students of the advanced courses were employed as assistant disciplinarians.

The formal opening of the schoolyear '76 took place on September 10 and a correspondent notes that the church choir did itself honor by its execution of one of Schweitzer's Masses for four male voices.

Abbot Alexius was solemnly blessed and installed as Abbot on October 24 in St. Cloud, because there was no locality at St. John's large enough for such a function. Several former students from St. Paul on this occasion presented him with a gold chain for his pectoral cross.

On February 8, 1876 came the saddening news that P. Wolfgang, the former President of the College, had suddenly died at Meier's Grove. He was born at St. Louis, Mo., March 15, 1842, made the simple vows of the Order at St. Vincent's, where he had also pursued the classical course, in 1860. A few years later he had left for Minnesota, and was followed at later periods by his two brothers, P. Ulric and P. Bede. Since 1875 he had been employed in the missions in the western part of Stearns County. His remains were brought to the abbey for burial. On February 10, after the community had recited the Office of the Dead, a solemn Requiem was sung at which P. Ulric, brother of the deceased, officiated and a funeral sermon was delivered by the Rt. Rev. Abbot. Bishop Seidenbusch, officiated at the final ceremonies in the presence of the entire community, visiting clergy, and several hundreds of former parishioners of P. Wolfgang. His memory is revered to this day by all who enjoyed the privilege of his acquaintance.

The annual exhibition took place on June 27; the weather was pleasant and the audience large. At 10 o'clock in the morning the academic exercises commenced with a production of the historical drama "Major Andre", written by the Rev. Leo Haid, O. S. B. of St. Vincent's College — now Vicar Apostolic of North Carolina — one of the most engaging pieces ever rendered on the college stage. After dinner followed the customary orations and the distribution of premiums and award of diplomas. The valedictorian on this occasion was James Keane — the present Bishop of Cheyenne.

At the grand Centennial celebration held at the fair grounds near St. Cloud, on July 4, the play above mentioned was reproduced with the full cast of characters and enthusiastically received.

There was a slight decrease in the number of professors during this and the preceding year. Only fifteen names appear in the list of the faculty, still the course of study

was in no way curtailed. Degrees conferred: the degree of Bachelor of Arts on Fr. Peter Engel, O. S. B., and that of Master of Accounts on seven graduates of the Commercial course. On the list of students were 130 names—17 secular seminarians, 14 clerics, and 99 students in all other departments. During the year, three of the clerics, Revs. Francis Mershman, Paul Rettenmaier and Aloysius Hermanutz were ordained priests.

1876-77

Bright as the signs for a prosperous future seemed to be for some time, the "hard times" which ensued upon the grasshopper visit of the Centennial year told upon the attendance at college, but not to any alarming extent. In February '77 a correspondent of the *N. W. Chronicle* says: "In spite of the hard times the collegiate attendance is very good; the names of 107 students are reported in the curriculum."

In the fall of 1876 the march of improvements was inaugurated by the installment of the first system of water works; the pump was set up in a small brick building which is now a part of the laundry, and from here the water was forced up-hill into a reservoir a few yards north of the present water tower. From this point, which lies higher than the third floor of the college, the water was led down into the buildings. The water works were not appreciated as a convenient institution only; within a few months their necessity became convincingly evident. It was at two o'clock in the morning, March 22, that the students were roused from sleep by the noise of hurrying feet and cries of "fire". One of the rooms occupied by the seminarians in the old stone building was filled with smoke. A wild panic followed, excited students began pitching books and furniture out of the windows into the snow and a few dragged their trunks down stairs. The faculty were busy fighting the peril that threatened to rob

them of a home. "The fire had progressed considerably before it was noticed, but Father Ulric (Northman) who was one of the first to discover it, quickly got a Babcock extinguisher to playing on the flames and with the aid of a few of the priests and brothers, who turned on water from the new works, soon extinguished the fire. The loss will amount to about \$200; no insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown." So reads a contemporary newspaper item. Father Ulric while plying the extinguisher had the misfortune to step into a hole in the floor and sustained a painful injury. The water supply proved a most welcome resource that critical night and demonstrated its utility beyond the hint of a doubt. After the fire the seminarians were removed from the stone building and quartered in a general study room on the second floor of the main building, where they remained until 1886.

In spring Abbot Alexius departed for Europe, where he spent several months visiting Germany, France and Italy. In June he was in Rome, was admitted to audience with Pius IX and had the pleasure of announcing to his brethren that the Holy Father sent his blessing both to them and the students in their charge. This news was received with cheers on the eve of exhibition day.

The exercises on commencement day were a departure from the traditional fashion of celebrating that occasion. "At 1:30 p. m. June 27," says a report in *Der Wanderer*, "the students, preceded by the College Band, marched in procession to the beautifully decorated exhibition hall. They were followed by a great number of visiting friends, among others Professors Kiehle and Gray, of the Normal School St. Cloud, Prof. Burdick, of the Union school, Senator Macdonald, Hon. L. W. Collins, mayor of St. Cloud, also Judges McKelvy and Brick, etc." The principal feature of the exercises was a debate of the proposition, "That savage nations possess a right to the soil." It was conducted under the auspices of the St. Thomas Literary Association. P. Francis Mershman, the President of the

Association presided, and Revs. Meinulph and Anthony, with Senator Macdonald and Profs. Kiehle and Gray were the judges. After a brisk dialectical struggle of about two hours, in which the disputants, Peter A. Schreiner, Anthony Mayer, J. F. Maloney and T. F. Cunningham revealed themselves not merely as orators but also as thinkers, the judges cast their votes in favor of the negative side. So much time was taken up by the debate that part of the programme could not be executed.

The catalogue contains the names of nineteen professors, the junior of whom—Mr. John Katzner—is mentioned as professor of violin and stenography. This is the first time stenography is mentioned in the annual catalogues; the system taught was that of Gabelsberger.

The degree of Master of Accounts was conferred on eight graduates. Only 117 students were enrolled during this academic year: 84 classical and commercial students, 18 secular seminarians and 15 clerics of the Order. Seven members of the graduating class in the seminary were ordained at various times during the year.

1877-78

In addition to the courses already offered at the institution, it was deemed expedient to organize a distinct Commercial course. Many young men in the northern section of the state contemplated embracing a business career, but there was no business college conveniently at hand. Hence the authorities concluded to meet the demand by adding this course to the curriculum.

According to the prospectus issued in December 1877, students of this course were also permitted to attend certain classes in the literary and scientific departments. All the studies which contribute to make up a thorough accountant, were to be taught. The system of instruction was to be that in use at prominent business colleges, and J. C. Smith's National Accountant was to be the basic

text book. The time required for finishing the course was to depend entirely upon the student's endowments and progress; he might finish it in three months, if his preparatory studies were good. By paying the tuition fee of fifty dollars a scholarship could be procured, which entitled the holder to an unlimited attendance in the classes of the department. Students were to be admitted at any time of the year, and no vacation given to interrupt studies.

The department occupied the south half of the first floor in the first brick building—now the tailor's shop. The students of this course attended instructions in this hall daily from 8 a. m. till 3 p. m. but spent the remaining hours in the general study rooms. The late P. Norbert Hofbauer, a skilled accountant and excellent penman, was the first Principal of the department, which was opened after the Christmas holidays, early in January 1878.

Only two events, outside of the customary celebrations, are noted for this school year. On March 16 the late Hon. Ignatius Donnelly entered his son S. J. Donnelly as a student and was induced to address the students and faculty. He spoke in his usual eloquent and fascinating manner of the services the monastic orders had rendered to civilization.

On June 26, before the commencement exercises P. Xavier White, the professor of belles lettres, was given a surprise by the pupils of his class, who presented him with a set of breviaries.

The commencement exercises were simple in comparison to those of former years. Even the debate was omitted and only speeches and music filled the programme. Of the musical selections none was applauded more than the productions of the Haydn String Quartette. An original English poem entitled "After the Battle", was read by its author, Mr. Richard P. Heffron, subsequently rector of St. Paul's Seminary. Bishop Seidenbush presided at the dis-

tribution of premiums, and a great number of friends of the institution witnessed the exercises.

The catalogue contains besides the usual information, a statement concerning the Commercial course. Some of the specifications of the prospectus above mentioned were modified. Sixteen professors composed the staff of the entire institution. In this catalogue also occurs the first mention of a Prefect of Studies. The first to hold this position was P. Francis Mershman. While the Vice-President retained the chief supervision of college work in disciplinary matters, it was the duty of the Prefect of Studies to examine applicants for entrance, to assign them to classes and to superintend the conduct of classes.

The degree of Master of Arts was conferred on Messrs. Jos. Hellrigl and Henry Plaster, and that of Master of Accounts on 23 graduates of the new commercial department, the first graduate being John Hoeschen, of Oak Station (Freeport), Minn.

The total attendance was 125: 18 secular seminarians, 12 clerics, 95 students in all other courses. Twelve members of the seminary class were ordained during the year.

1878-79

Even the most modest expectations were defeated by the poor success of this school year. According to the catalogue, only 94 students were enrolled in all departments—of these 18 were seminarians. The hard times were still making themselves felt. One cause of the decline in attendance was the establishment of an academy near Sauk Centre, which relied for its patronage on Stearns county.

The authorities at St. John's hoped that a reduction of the rate for tuition and board would improve the situation, but neither that expedient nor assiduous advertising seemed to be of any avail. But where is there a sky without a cloud? Every institution reared by the hand of man has its vicissitudes; the hour of disappointment is the

hour for gathering new strength and kindling new hope.

The staff of professors had sixteen members. One of the professors, P. Aloysius Hermanutz, in November 1878 volunteered to serve as a missionary among the Chippewa Indians at White Earth, and has labored in that mission ever since without interruption.

On June 1 the Rt. Rev. Abbot conferred on Revs. Bernard Loenikar and Francis Mershman the degree of Doctor of Divinity, and upon P. Peter Engel that of Doctor of Philosophy.

For the final examinations in the several departments boards, each composed of three members of the faculty, were selected; among these the work of examining all the classes was distributed and they finished their task in three days.

June 24 was exhibition day. According to a report extant, the weather again worried all concerned, but eventually everything was lovely and the great day passed into history and lives in memory like a rosy sunset. On the programme were speeches and musical selections: R. P. Heffron delivered an oration on "Materialism and Modern Thought"; there were, moreover, German and Latin orations.

The degree of Master of Accounts was conferred on 12 candidates.

In the course of the summer arrangements were completed for the establishment of Collegeville station on the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba railway line. A passenger and freight station house was built in June 1879 and Mr. Henry Broker, who took up his residence in the large frame house on the north side of the track, was the first station agent. A new wagon road was cut through the woods and thus good old Bro. "Taddy's" daily stage trip was shortened five miles. Late in summer Collegeville post office was opened, with station agent Broker as postmaster.

For many years the need of an appropriate, commodious

church had been felt, the humble frame chapel was no longer worthy of the great pile in the shadow of which it stood. During the summer of 1879 work on the new church was begun; the masonry of the basement was finished in fall and on September 24 the cornerstone was laid.

1879-80

"It's a long lane that has no turning". Whatever disappointment was felt during the last year, made way for cheerful and renewed effort as the attendance of the new scholastic term increased.

During the winter a minim department was organized through the efforts of the Prefect of Studies. The defective elementary education of many of the pupils who applied for admission to the collegiate departments, rendered this step necessary. About fifteen students ranging between 10 and 15 years of age formed the first class.

Considerable sickness prevailed during the latter part of 1879 and the beginning of 1880; two of the students, J. Barthle and J. L. Brousseau died at college.

In 1880 all the world was celebrating the fourteen hundredth anniversary of the birth of St. Benedict. The 4th, 5th and 6th of April of that year were red letter days and saw notable gatherings and events at St. John's. A concise account is given in the catalogue of 1880. "Distinguished visitors graced the celebration. Rt. Rev. Bishop Seidenbusch, former superior of the Monastery and College, whose visits are always joyfully greeted, celebrated Pontifical Mass, administered Confirmation and conferred Minor Orders (on the first day). Rt. Rev. Bishop Marty, the zealous Vicar Apostolic of Dakota, officiated on the second day of the Triduum and preached a touching sermon to an appreciative and delighted audience. The laity was ably represented by Hon. H. C. Waite, a distinguished convert to Catholicity, whose pleasing and instructive lecture was the prominent feature of an afternoon

seance". On the last named occasion the college choir sang the jubilee song, the text of which was written by P. Xavier White and the music by P. Ulric Northman. A centennial ode, also written by P. Xavier, was delivered by one of the students. It is one of the few poetic efforts traceable to that estimable and gifted professor, and was assigned a place of honor in the catalogue. His dignified diction and power of description are well illustrated in these lines:

'Tis eastern brethren sing the song
That time through distance doth prolong,
That echoes through this western sphere,
And mingles with our matins here.
It bears its onward course amain;
The east will hear the glad refrain,
And then attune their evening prayer
To our exultant matin air;
For ere Cassino chant her evening lays
Back shall resound our songs of praise,
Till brethren with united voice
In one grand harmony rejoice.

After the celebration, the Rt. Rev. Abbot set out for Europe a second time, to attend the festivities at the tomb of St. Benedict at Monte Cassino, and did not return before August. He was accompanied by P. Peter Engel, then professor of Philosophy and Chemistry. This suggests the fact that about this time Father Peter began experimenting in photography. The primitive studio he fitted up, developed into a gallery of respectable dimensions in a short time and became a permanent institution. At first the studio occupied a corner in the chemical laboratory and pictures were taken under Minnesota skylight, with scenery such as only the Author of the universe can paint, as background. For some time the gallery found shelter in a wing of the old frame house, was next transferred to the fourth floor of the new college buildings and finally was given fine quarters in the third floor of the library building.

The schoolyear closed on June 24th with very simple

exercises; there was music, a salutatory, a valedictory, several orations and the distribution of premiums. For the first time in the history of the college a gold medal was awarded; it was the gift of Rev. C. V. Gamache and George Doerenkaemper was the fortunate captor.

In all, 145 students were enrolled this year: 14 secular and 15 regular seminarians and 116 students in all the other departments.

The old lithograph picture of the buildings was replaced by a double-page engraving from a sketch by Fr. Urban Fisher, then professor of drawing. It was a birdseye view from the northeast and comprised a goodly piece of country. In the foreground is the new church, in the distance to the right are the new shops and other buildings, and near the lake shore, the laundry, which was built in 1878.

1880-81

Towards the end of August the institution received a visit from the distinguished author and professor, Dr. Herman Zschokke, chaplain to the Austrian imperial court and subsequently rector of the University of Vienna. He perpetuated the memory of that visit in a series of sketches entitled "Nach Nord Amerika und Canada". How deeply he was impressed with the scenery here, is revealed by the following paragraph (translated): "On the other shore of the lake there stands surrounded by trees a small chapel —Stella Maris—built by the students in honor of the Mother of God. It was a sunset picture so exquisite, that one could not imagine anything more perfect. The sun, which had just disappeared below the horizon, poured a flood of orange-hued light over the western sky; the placid lake caught and mirrored the glorious light which transfigured the thick foliage of the forest; from its height the abbey looked calmly upon the scene; and when finally the bell sounded the *Ave Maria* and its voice was wafted over the quiet, peaceful landscape, finding many an echo

in the woods, I found myself transported in spirit back into the early centuries, when the sons of St. Benedict penetrated with holy zeal into the wilderness, cut down forests, founded monasteries, enkindled everywhere the light of faith and gave Europe civilization". (p. 501.)

Up to this time the public prints had little to say of the college: several times a year they were furnished with elaborate reports of festivities, but of the doings in student circles in the class room and on the campus, scant reports found their way into publicity. P. Xavier was the first to venture to supply the press, particularly that in the immediate neighborhood, with college news. His reports enable the chronicler to present in closer detail the events of the time.

The winter of 1880-81 was severe; for three days in February the college was effectually cut off from the rest of the world, trains were snow-bound for three days and no mail could be delivered.

A list of pupils who merited first or second class honors at the first term examinations was inserted in the *Times* and *Der Wanderer*. From this time forward such lists appeared regularly and served to stimulate the ambition of the students. The attendance was very gratifying and the reporter notes that in January "a lot of new furniture, desks, chairs, bedsteads, etc., were brought up from the depot. The institution is filling to its utmost capacity and the voice is 'still they come'." Shortly after he observes: "Among the students we find the following nationalities: Russian, Dutch, French, Irish, German and American. 'Wise men from every nation'." The Commercial graduates generally received a word of commendation and encouragement and the efforts of the orators were rewarded by the insertion of their papers in the *Times*. Thus the late Rev. Henry McGolrick's discourse on "The Existence of God," was printed in full, occupying about three columns of the paper; and about the same time appeared Fr. Urban's excellent essay, "Physiological Proofs

of the Unity of the Human Species". When the class in civil engineering had spent a day in the field ascertaining the height of a certain hill and grading a road through it, they found this humorous write-up about themselves: "They worked more lively than older hands and with wondrous exactitude. After three hours out-door work they returned very civil engineers, and with remarkable dexterity found the level of a heap of edibles in a very practical way". On another occasion "Messrs. Lawler and Doeren-kaemper gave an exemplification of the old proverb—*errare humanum est*. They were working a lunar and could not agree in the result. When the fray was at its hottest, Master Flock explained: 'Gentlemen, neither of you is far astray. One has the true altitude of the orb; the other, calculating parallax, has taken the shadow of the old man's beard as he sat on the edge of the disc making his toilet and using the Atlantic for a mirror'."

In the meantime the new church building was progressing rapidly, despite numerous delays. During June the brick work of the towers was completed.

May 22nd was the 25th anniversary of the advent of the Benedictines in Minnesota, but the celebration of the event was postponed to some more favorable time, chiefly because the church was not finished.

The closing exercises on June 22nd were witnessed by a remarkably large gathering of clergymen, both Benedictines and secular. The chief feature was a debate of the question, "Can the United States be properly called a Catholic country?" A reporter of the exercises to the *Pioneer Press* observes: "This was one of St. John's best commencements; not because of tinselled brilliancy—of that there was none—but because of solid work well done and plainly evidenced. The number of graduates was large and they well deserved the distinctions received. All the speeches were original—written by the pupils—and though none were of the brilliant style of eloquence,

all were far above the medium—replete with solid thought, conveyed in clear, forcible language."

The annual catalogue states that the classical course was extended to six years, instead of five; the first class in philosophy was detached from the ecclesiastical course and added to the classical course.

In the ecclesiastical course there were 25 students, of these seven were ordained in course of the year. All the other departments had an attendance of 133,—total 158. The degree of Bachelor of Philosophy was conferred this year for the first time; there were 6 candidates; the degree of Bachelor of Arts was conferred on 2 graduates and that of Master of Accounts on 25. Two gold medals were awarded: one, for excellence in Christian Doctrine, the gift of Bishop Seidenbush, the other for general proficiency, the gift of Rev. C.V. Gamache. These prizes were taken by Geo. Doerenkaemper and Henry Flock.

1881-82

When the doors were thrown open for admission of the silver jubilee class in September, only 60 students reported and work was promptly begun. On the staff of professors were P. Ulric Northman, the Vice-President; Fathers Norbert Hofbauer, Peter Engel, Francis Mershman, Anthony Kapser, Simplicius Wimmer, Vincent Schiffrer, Othmar Erren, Xavier White, John Katzner and the clerics Frs. Alfred Mayer, Jerome Heider, Thomas Bording, Conrad Glatzmaier, Urban Fisher, Placidus Wingerter, Wolfgang Steinkogler, Alexius Hoffmann, Chrysostom Schreiner, Lawrence Steinkogler, James Capellen and Timothy Vaeth.

On the second day of the schoolyear, September 9, the Rev. Director of the Sodality, P. Francis, celebrated a Requiem for the repose of the soul of Rev. J. Breunig, '79, who died of consumption at Sheboygan, Wis., on September 1.

Less than two weeks after the opening of the school year, 85 students were enrolled and fears for an unsuccessful year were quickly dispelled. P. Leo Winter organized a singing society. "The boys take to it like kittens to milk," says the *Times* correspondent. Unfortunately, P. Leo was shortly after assigned to parish work and interest in the glee club flagged.

The new church was slowly approaching completion; early in October work was begun on the steeples and the roof was covered with tin. Since the middle of July two of the basement chapels were in use, but owing to the distance of the chapels from the college building then in use, the students continued attending the frame chapel.

A class in practical short-hand reporting was organized by Fr. Urban, who himself was an expert reporter, and the first impulse was given to the introduction of phonography into the commercial class. Also a class in practical astronomy was formed, despite the lack of appropriate instruments. Nor was the campus desolate; there is record of a game of base ball between the classics and the theologians which "went hard against the classics", score 9—0. Here is the comment of a reporter: "*Otium cum dignitate* is the time to which the theologians play base ball, but 9—0 is that to which the poor classics 'hold it down.' And worse than all, the theologians took the new ball. Classics, you are good players in some barn yard with a yarn ball." Early in the winter a movement in favor of military drill was inaugurated. A company of about 40 was formed and under command of Capt. Jos. Langan began operations. They did not succeed in securing arms and uniforms and in consequence the company was disbanded in the winter.

An epidemic of small pox prevailed in the neighborhood during the winter. Sorrow and death reigned under many a roof. The priests in the stricken places made heroic efforts to bar the progress of the disease and their

efforts were recognized by the State Board of Health. Only one priest fell a victim to the duties of his calling, P. Meinrad Leuthard, O. S. B., pastor at Melrose. He contracted the disease while attending to a member of his congregation and died November 28, 1881. He had been a student and professor at St. John's and was universally esteemed for his great piety and seriousness. In the midst of this visitation, the college remained unscathed. Dr. Hewit, secretary of the State Board of Health, made an examination of a great number of institutions including St. John's, in November. He found no trace of the disease here and complimented the students upon their fine condition, "The only disease the doctor found," says a reporter to the *Chronicle*, "was consumption of edibles which prevails to such an extent as to keep the cook and kitchen force working like hatters. The Doctor left a certificate with the Abbot to the effect that he found no other disease in the house." Fifteen years later the situation was more serious.

Skating was exceptionally fine this winter: several hundred acres of skating rink is a privilege not accorded to the students of every year and so the best was made of the present opportunity. Those who would not trust themselves to the smooth surface and shining steel, remained on solid earth and kicked foot-ball, then a very simple game. There was no association, no gridiron, no rooting. When winter set in, it was customary to take up a collection for a foot-ball. Sides were chosen for every game; one man was placed to watch the "barrier" or goal, while the rest strove to kick the ball through the goal of the opposing side. Victory came to the best kickers and runners.

After the Christmas holidays, a number of new students were registered. Room was growing scarce, and furniture running short, the carpenters were ordered to make new desks for the study halls and class rooms. "During Holy

Week the chapel was full at every service. Few of the pupils being absent on vacation it was made a point to carry out the ceremonies of the season strictly in compliance with the rubrics." Easter was the end of the second term for quarterly bulletins for some time.

"To thank Almighty God for his merciful preservation from contagion during the late epidemic, a solemn High Mass was celebrated on Saturday (April 22) in the monastery church. Every member of the house felt himself obliged to this grateful act for while all around, and even near by, many were stricken with the plague, houses were quarantined and much suffering and inconvenience followed, not a single case of sickness appeared among the two hundred inmates of St. John's. So marked a protection could not fail to make a strong and lasting impression."

Once in a long while a news correspondent would chronicle the vagaries of the weather, which then as now fascinated and eluded a large school of prophets. Says one: "Just so, but who'd have thought of it? On the 21st of May, 1882 snow and hail! Cattle are under the sheds, birds sit on the leeward branches to avoid being blown away." In general the summer was pleasant, as is shown by the numerous visitors who came to spend an afternoon fishing at the college lake."

The commencement services were held June 27; besides the usual formal salutatory and valedictory addresses and music there were two orations by graduates, an impromptu address by Col. S. J. Ahern of St. Paul and an address to the graduates by Hon. H. C. Waite. The latter was a very elaborate discourse worked out in scholarly style and fraught with many practical counsels, deductions from the experiences of a long and worthy life. Taking leave of his audience he said: "Forward, never backward; no delay stations on the road: no side issues to swerve you from the one sole purpose you have in view. Onward and

ever onward until the goal is reached. Such is the course of the truly successful man. In so going you may not always win the applause of your contemporaries, but the final judgment will be in your favor. In this brave task you have set before you of living and being, you have already acquired many accomplishments. Still the greater task is before you. I would suggest no discouragements; these will come soon enough. I prefer to address myself to the splendor of your opportunities. For myself I can say, I do love to live and enter into the constitution of the world's progress. I rejoice in such occasions as these, where young men emerge from the requirements of school discipline and take upon themselves the manly duties of independent living. Let your attendance here never bring reproach upon the institution when in afterlife you have become merged in industrial or professional pursuits. Look back to her as a foster mother and extend to her that consideration she has so bountifully extended to you. Protect the reputation of the institution you have assisted in making and when you go hence, go forth bravely, boldly and wisely to your life tasks. As students, I bid you good afternoon, but as young men just leaving school and entering upon the active duties of life, I say, good morning."

According to the catalogue the number of professors was 22 and the total student attendance 159—22 being seminarians and 137 students in all the other courses. The degree of Bachelor of Philosophy was conferred on 2 candidates, that of Master of Accounts on 35, and three gold medals were awarded.

On July 25 nine graduates of the seminary were raised to the holy priesthood by Bishop Seidenbush in the basement chapel of the new church. "This was the largest number of priests ever ordained at one time in Minnesota and it brings the number of priests ordained from this house up to 98; of this number 41 belong to the Benedic-

tine Order, the remaining 57 are世俗者, who in 12 different dioceses are laboring in the vineyard of the Lord with credit to themselves and to their Alma Mater." The nine newly ordained were Revs. Martin Schmitt, Alfred Mayer, Conrad Glatzmaier, Urban Fischer, all Benedictines, and Revs. George Gaskell, Christopher Murphy, Gregory Goebel, Patrick Boland and Nicholas Schmitz, secular clergymen. In the afternoon of the same day, about 4 o'clock, a severe storm passed over the house, causing great fear and excitement. Everything movable was carried before the wind. A part of the tin roofing of the church was carried off and the rain which came with the storm poured through the ceiling and somewhat damaged the plastering.

1882-83

"Lonesome vacation days are gone and now again sleeping echoes waken in glad response to the merry shouts of joyous innocence, again the hum of busy workers drawing lore from leaves that speak..... A ramble through the campus shows many old and many new faces, but many old ones, too, are missing. But whence these new ones? Here are Minnesota's representatives in miniature and members from Dakota side by side with those who represent Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa. Standing Rock and Fargo, Moorhead and Duluth, with many intervening posts, send in representatives from the North. Then from the South come Iowa City, Madison, St. Paul, the Mill city with the long name, St. Cloud and Stearns generally. Various as are the places, as various are the faces, one thing is common to all—a desire to be learned, useful men." Thus the local reporter sketches the opening days of the fall term. Events ran along "so quietly that one would not find out, without trying, that an army of students is posted in the establishment. The fact is, business is being pushed on so

lively that no one has time to be noisy or mischievous."

October 24th was the day appointed for the consecration of the new church. A great number of clergy and other friends, of the institution had assembled to witness the ceremonies, which began at 7 a. m. Bishop Seidenbush was the principal officiating prelate; he consecrated the church and the high altar and celebrated pontifical High Mass. The two side altars were consecrated at the same time by the late Abbot Boniface Wimmer and Abbot Innocent Wolf. A discourse was delivered in English by Rt. Rev. John Ireland, then coadjutor to the bishop of St. Paul and one in German by Rev. Dr. Otto Zardetti. On the same occasion the silver jubilee of the arrival of the first Benedictines in Minnesota was celebrated and the first Alumni Association organized of which more extensive mention shall be made in another chapter.

Towards the end of November, 25 were in the commercial class. During the month the college band played at the church fair in St. Cloud and executed a small musical program at the college on St. Cecilia's day.

On December 16, before sunrise, the saw and grist mills on the Watab were burnt to the ground together with a considerable quantity of grain and timber. Since that time no effort has been made to rebuild the mills, but the dam remains and the boisterous waters rush down the rocks as they did a quarter of a century ago.

Among the visitors at St. John's in the fall was the late Rev. Dr. Joseph Joerger, whose notes of travel over the *nom de plume* of *Socius Fidelis* were in their day read with great avidity. In his recollections of St. John's he writes: "*Si monumentum requiris, circumspice!*" (If you seek for a monument look about you) is said of the builder of St. Paul's in London. This monastery and church also are such a *monumentum aere perennius*. A part of the buildings is occupied by St. John's College,

of which the Rt. Rev. Abbot is the President, assisted by P. Ulric Northman as vice-gerent and a staff of twenty professors. I shall never forget the genial hospitality of Fathers Othmar Erren, Xavier White and John Katzner. I will make no special mention of P. Ulric, for my love for him is as powerful as his size, *sex cubitorum et palmae.*"

Of the buildings occupied by the community in the farm up to 1867, only a two story loghouse was left on the spot; this structure was wiped out by fire on January 18, 1883.

On the feast of St. Scholastica, P. Placidus Wingerter who had been one of the disciplinarians for two years past, celebrated his First Holy Mass in the new church. It was the first event of this kind in the new church. At a later hour in the day the students met in one of the class rooms, where they delivered congratulatory addresses to the new priest and offered him a valuable present.

Since February of this year the institution bears the legal style and title of "St. John's University". A bill for an act amendatory of the original charter was submitted to the State legislature by Senator H. C. Waite, passed by both houses and approved by the Governor February 17th. The document may be found in the Special Laws of Minnesota, chap. 85, p. 223 and reads:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota;

SECTION 1. That the act entitled an act to incorporate the St. John's Seminary, approved March sixth (6th), one thousand eight hundred a fifty-seven (1857), as well as the several acts amendatory thereof, and the title to the original act of incorporation, be and the same are hereby amended as follows:

That wherever the word "seminary" occurs in either thereof, the same be stricken out and the word "university" be substituted in lieu thereof.

SECTION 2. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent

with this act be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

On March 9th, P. Peter Engel was appointed Prefect of Studies, which office he held until June 1895.

June 26 was Commencement day. A number of friends of the institution, especially Alumni who had come to hold their first annual meeting, witnessed the exercises, which were not of an elaborate character.

From the catalogue we learn that the baccalaureate in philosophy was conferred on 4 graduates, and the degree of M. A. on 17. Five gold and one silver medal were awarded. 163 students were enrolled: 16 seminarians and 147 in all other departments.

During the summer excavations were made for the foundation of the new college buildings—one, 160X60, was to be an entension of the main building, another, 110X60 was to be attached to the church; both to run parallel and to be joined at their western extremity by a wing 100X50. The corner stone, a huge boulder, was placed in position August 22nd.

1883-84

Class work was resumed September 5th, and the attendance was flattering. Few events worthy of notice outside of the everyday occurrences, are at the disposal of the chronicler. A visitor in January 1884 reports: "A stately structure presenting 370 ft. front and a church that rivals the largest and most beautiful in the state, compose the present University buildings. But even this structure, large as it is, does not furnish the needed room, hence the foundations are laid and already raised one story high for other buildings whose entire length is 300 ft. and width 60 ft. Since 1870, when the first annual catalogue was issued, 1113 names are on the roll and this is for but one half of the years of the institution. The



RT. REV. ALEXIUS EDELBROCK, O. S. B.

'annual' of this year will contain about 200 names. Of the entire number since 1870 there have been 103 ordained to the priesthood and 237 have received diplomas and degrees in the arts and sciences."

Early in 1884 a figure familiar to the students of several years disappeared—that of the "old general." His name was Koronikolski. His conversation showed that he had enjoyed an excellent classical education. According to his own story he had been an officer in the army in Poland, had taken part in some insurrection and been compelled to flee. For many years he lived a solitary life in the woods beyond the Watab, was extremely poor and at the time of his death occupied a small room in the frame building, where one of the Brothers waited upon him.

When the Easter class bulletins were issued, it was stated that the attendance exceeded that of any previous year. In the papers appeared a list of all those who had merited an average note of 75% in all their classes.

The scholastic year closed on June 25. At 7 a. m. the faculty, students and invited guests assembled in the hall, and after an opening selection by the Band, the Vice President read the final bulletins. The address to the graduates was delivered by Hon. J. W. Arctander, District Attorney of the twelfth judicial district of Minnesota. He began by relating the story of Aladdin's lamp. "The old rusty copper lamp," said he, "according to my interpretation is knowledge. A person seeking knowledge meets with difficulties, as Aladdin did when sent for the lamp. The boy rubs against the lamp, that was his will power. This produced talent that conquered all other forces. Aladdin was sent to bring an old rusty copper lamp. To him it was a lamp and nothing more, he did not appreciate its worth. So too with a boy in search of knowledge. To him many branches of learning appear to be taught but to tease or plague; but this is a mistaken

view, for every branch taught is a step forward, yes, every problem that you solve, every old classical author you lay aside, you pass another milestone, and every milestone that you pass brings you nearer and nearer to your destination." His ringing eloquence brought out round after round of applause. This was not the only occasion on which Mr. Arctander addressed the students; his services at the institution as a lecturer will be duly recorded in the course of these annals.

The staff of professors according to the catalogue consisted of 23 members, the total enrollment of students was 203; 23 seminarians and 180 students in the other departments. The degree of Bachelor of Philosophy was conferred on 2 graduates, that of M. A. on 23. Five medals of gold and one of silver were awarded.

1884-85

The frequency with which applications were made for the admission of very young students and the advisability of separating them as much as possible from older students both in class rooms and during recreation induced the authorities to establish a special Minim Department. It was organized and directed by P. Chrysostom and proved to be a very useful and timely institution.

Only 93 students reported for the resumption of classes. Towards the end of October a number of photographs were taken of the students and faculty to be sent to the World's Cotton and Industrial exposition at New Orleans. In the middle of November the institution was honored with a visit of Senator McKenzie of Bismarck, Dakota. The college Band tendered him a serenade.

A contemporary report mentions religious devotions which tradition has hallowed, namely the novena before the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the Forty Hours devotion. The influence of religion as an edu-

tional factor can not be overestimated; nothing is more necessary or more valuable, particularly to youths, whose souls are so susceptible, so easily led and impressed, so easily decoyed by false principles and deceitful ambitions. But for the purifying and elevating influences of religion and its practices many a young man would have cast his earlier convictions overboard and drifted out into the darkness of indifference. This is why religious practices have always been given much prominence at St. John's.

When Abbot Alexius returned from the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore in December, the members of the Fourth Latin class publicly presented a program, consisting of latin dialogues and selections from classical authors, before the faculty and students of the classical course.

In the first days of 1885 the Industrial school for Chippewa Indian boys was organized in the stone-house; fifty pupils formed the first class, in charge of P. Chrysostom, assisted by Fr. Meinrad and Bro. Philip. Part of the quarters occupied by the students was turned over to the Industrial school; still no crowding ensued and there was consolation in the prospect that the new buildings could soon be occupied.

Music was, according to an extant report, diligently cultivated, "four professors give instruction in music, and 5 pianos, 2 organs, flutes, violins, guitars and citherns are in service".

Shortly after the organization of the Industrial School, Father Aloysius, O. S. B., the missionary in charge at White Earth, came to see the institution. On the Sunday following his arrival he preached a sermon in the Chippewa tongue in which he had acquired considerable fluency in the six years of his sojourn on the Reservation. In the afternoon a delegation of students called upon him and invited him to deliver a lecture on the Indian mission at White Earth. Although he was fatigued by his long journey, he granted their request and for nearly an hour

dwelt upon the scenes of mission life, spicing his remarks with anecdotes and vivid descriptions.

Crimes and misdemeanors were hitherto such unmeaning terms in Collegeville that when one day in the last week of January it was reported that burglars had entered the laundry at night, and had maliciously and stealthily appropriated one clock, three colored handkerchiefs and ten shirts, all students stood aghast. A reward of \$25 was offered for the detection of the thief. One gentleman with a Sherlock Holmes eye took note that the footprints were made by a No. 9 boot, and that the individual was accompanied by a dog. The guilty party was discovered some time after and together with his family sought a home in some other clime.

On the evening of March 19, the members of the Fourth Latin class again invited faculty and students to witness a "Ludus theatralis", a Latin drama entitled "St. Stanislaus Kostka". Thirteen pupils were engaged in the play and Father John wrote the incidental music. Class room No. 2 was the hall employed for the occasion.

Father Urban about this time was busy arranging a mineralogical collection of several hundred specimens. A large number of beautiful petrifications from the Bad Lands was presented to the cabinet by Father Martin, O. S. B., then pastor of Mandan, Dak.

At the approach of the Easter holidays, the press correspondent wrote: "Students at the University say 'thrice a year comes judgment day'. The second of these awe-inspiring occasions has just passed and now each traveler up the mount of science knows just how he stands in the eyes of alma mater and with the faculty. To obtain in all classes an average note of 75% out of a possible 100 requires diligent application and no small amount of intellectual ability."

P. Chrysostom Schreiner, who had, since his entrance into the Benedictine order, served at St. John's in the

capacity of a professor, prefect of the seminary and for some time as director of the Industrial school, was appointed successor to P. Ulric in the vice presidency of the University on April 16th. P. Chrysostom was well acquainted with the ground he was to tread and set to work energetically. P. Ulric continued to teach music and never, to the day of his death five years later, lost the esteem of a wide circle of friends.

After the ice had disappeared from the lake on April 21, provisions were made for enjoying the summer. Three new boats were launched; the largest of the group called the British Isles was turned into a miniature park and a small pavilion set in its midst. It was a favorite resort for several years and an ideal spot to while away a free afternoon over a book. During the month the Band gave several gondola and lawn concerts after supper.

One evening in that month of June, says a diary, a cyclone formed in the heavens to the east. All watched it with some consternation, but the threatening peril was broken up by the wind. Coming events cast their shadows before them.

At the annual commencement on June 25th, Hon. H. C. Waite read an original poem. The degree of Ph. B. was conferred on 5 graduates, that of M. A. on 17 and the honorary degree of LL. D. on Hon. H. C. Waite, J. W. Arctander and E. H. Morse. Twelve medals were awarded. Enrollment: 18 seminarians, 161 students in all other departments, total 179. At the end of the catalogue was a card of thanks for donations to the museum; the donors were Bishop Seidenbush, Fathers Martin, Aloysius and Pancratius, Rev. F. X. Schulac, S. J., Mrs. Gannon of Bismarck, D. T. and Mr. F. J. Rothpletz, Red Lake Falls, Minn.

In the early days of vacation the institution was honored with visits by the late bishops F. X. Krautbauer of Green Bay and J. B. Brondel of Helena, Mont. The former had

come upon invitation of Bishop Seidenbush, who was abroad for his health, to hold the annual ordination services at St. John's.

Father Chrysostom, with the assistance of a few boys who remained at the college during vacation, renovated the Stella Maris chapel and replaced the old spire which was falling to pieces, with a new one.

1885—86

The fall term which opened on September 3, found 80 names on the rolls. Room was growing scarce and all were anxiously looking for the completion of the new buildings. One of the pleasing occurrences of the first month was a visit from Bishop Seidenbush, who had just returned from the East after a serious and protracted illness.

On October 15, Mr. J. W. Arctander opened the lecture course by a lecture on "Sketches of Everyday Life in Imperial Rome" for the special benefit of the classical students. In the commercial class a series of lectures was also arranged; they were delivered during the winter months, being inaugurated by Judge L. W. Collins of St. Cloud, on November 4th. He delivered four lectures and was followed in January by Judge D. B. Searle, who delivered an equal number. Both these gentlemen, who enjoy a distinguished reputation in legal circles, have many claims upon the gratitude of the faculty and students, not only of '86 but of many following years.

The last celebration of a public nature held in the old buildings was that of tenth anniversary of Abbot Alexius' installment into office. The exercises which consisted of music, songs and speeches by several of the professors, were conducted in the Senior study-hall.

On All Souls' Day the students walked in procession to the cemetery as they had been wont to do in years past. Never has this venerable tradition been lost sight of. Several days later the news arrived of the death of Joseph

Weisser, of St. Cloud, a brother of P. Otto Weisser. The former had pursued the classical course of study with a view of entering the Benedictine Order. Towards the end of his course he was compelled to discontinue; unmistakable signs of consumption showed themselves and he was soon at death's door. Nevertheless he desired to become a member of the Order and his prayer for admission was granted. He was invested with the habit on August 13, was given the religious name of Fr. Athanasius and made the vows of the Order: on November 5th he passed to a better life. He was buried in the abbey cemetery and many of his former classmates attended the funeral ceremonies.

An elaborate series of entertainments was given on Thanksgiving Day under the auspices of the Alexian Dramatic and Philharmonic Associations, both of which had just come into existence and were displaying astounding vitality. On the evening of November 25, the eve of Thanksgiving, a German farce, "Doctor Wunderlich," set the audience in good humor for the efforts of the next day. On the 26th there was a second entertainment, the principal feature of which was a dramatic performance, "The Elder Brother." The orchestra made its first appearance on this occasion; among its members was Mr. Max Dick, whose solos were much admired and who has since charmed many audiences from the eastern to the western coast. The exercises were held in the first floor of the north wing, now the Commercial Hall.

On January 6th 175 students were reported in attendance. For a moment the authorities were perplexed, but the question was solved by establishing a temporary study hall on the third floor of the monastery building. Only the most sedate gentlemen from the Senior hall were transferred to these new quarters, which by their envious fellows were contemptuously denominated the Dudes' Department.

At the opening of the second session, in February, the Commercial Department was transferred to the third floor of the new extension of the main building. It was a proud hall 90 ft. long and 25 ft. wide, on the south side of the corridor, and in later years was cut up into a number of small apartments for the seminarians. At the same time a hall of almost equal size on the second floor of the extension was fitted up as a dormitory for the smaller students.

Another entertainment was offered on Washington's Birthday in presence of many friends of the institution. At 2 p. m. "the Elder Brother" passed over the boards a second time, and it was followed by a German sketch "Aus Haendel's Jugend." The several acts were interspersed with numbers by the band and orchestra, instrumental solos on the violin, cithern and flute, and vocal selections. Hon. H. C. Waite and Hon. J. L. Wilson, of St. Cloud, delivered brief addresses at the conclusion of the exercises.

A few days later, March 5, there was an eclipse of the sun; the people of Minnesota had been told all about it in advance by one Severinus J. Corrigan, of Washington, D. C. Who is Corrigan? Years ago, as early as '68 he was a student at St. John's; next he betook himself to the study of law, then turned to the physical sciences, which he studied for six years, became assistant in the office of the American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac, bureau of Navigation, U. S. Navy Dept.; made special studies in electrical science and wrote several monographs and a number of professional papers of original research in astronomy and physics.* For the last two decades Mr. Corrigan has lost few opportunities to enlighten his fellow citizens on extraordinary celestial phenomena through the daily press of St. Paul, where he made his permanent residence about 1884. His reports could not only claim scientific accuracy but were written in a very popular, attractive style. Speaking, for instance, of the eclipse of March 5th, he says: "At

* Who's Who in America 1901-02.

the time of greatest obscuration the sun will be nearly in the horizon and sunset will intervene before the end of the eclipse, which will therefore not be visible at St. Paul but only farther to the west. Now altho' nature, deeming probably that St. Paul has had a surfeit of spectacular entertainment of late, will thus ring down the curtain before the end of the performance, the following diagram will furnish a view of the phenomenon from beginning to end; and in the event of cloudy skies, which are very likely to interfere, these diagrams may have to take the place of the actual spectacle."

April 14th will for generations be a memorable day for Stearns county, for on that day a cyclone dealt desolation and death to St. Cloud and Sauk Rapids. It was a dark day at St. John's and a heavy rain poured down after the storm had passed by. Two days later services were held for the victims of the disaster among whom was Mr. Juene-mann, father of Fr. Demetrius.

On April 23 the venerable Father Clement Staub, who had acquired a wide-spread reputation as a physician, died at St. Joseph, Minn. and was buried among his brethren at the monastery.

On June 20th, P. Stephen Koefler, O. S. B., who had been ordained on the 14th of the same month, celebrated his First Holy Mass in the college chapel. The following day, June 21. was devoted to the commencement exercises which consisted simply of the distribution of premiums. On June 22nd, the second general meeting of the Alumni was held and the boys of '86 had an opportunity to meet representative students of former school years. After the banquet which was held in the present exhibition hall, the degrees and prizes were awarded to the outgoing class. The degree of Ph. B. was conferred on 5 graduates; that of M. A. on 30: that of Ph. D. on Rev. Chrysostom Schreiner and that of Doctor of Philology on Rev. Urban Fischer. The honorary degree of LL. D. was

conferred on Judge L. W. Collins and Hon. D. B. Searle, of St. Cloud. Gold and silver medals to the number of 12 were awarded in various classes. On the roll of students were 215 names — 22 seminarians and 193 in all other departments. All signs for a bright future were favorable. During vacation the north and west wings of the new addition were prepared for occupancy.

1886-87

Luckily for the chronicler, there is extant in the catalogue of 1886-87 a condensed history of that school year. It covers only two pages in print but omits nothing that is worthy of mention. Being the first production of its kind, it shall be here reprinted in its entirety:

September 7. Students are arriving with every train and there will be life in the camp from date.

September 8. The school term began this morning. Solemn High Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Vice President before class hours.

In the basement of the north wing a spacious play hall, 60x80, has been arranged and furnished with a first class bowling-alley running the full length of the hall. Turning poles, vaulting-bars and other gymnastical apparatus will follow.

Beside the usual Quarterly Bulletins, monthly Conduct Bulletins will be published and read.

October 24. Father Cyril, O. S. B., one of the Professors and Mr. John Sroka were ordained priests at St. Cloud by Rt. Rev. Bishop Seidenbush.

November 13. Forty Hours Devotion commenced to-day and closed on the 15th.

November 23. The new University buildings were solemnly dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Pres't. Abbot Alexius Edelbrock. About 35 priests were present at the solemnity. The blessing took place after Pontifical High-Mass sung by the Rt. Rev. Abbot. In the afternoon an entertainment was given by the Dramatical and Musical Associations. "The Runaways" and the "Victim of Friendship" were the two dramatic pieces produced. On invitation the pupils of the Industrial School contributed materially to the entertainment.

November 25. Thanksgiving-Day was observed by a High-Mass at 7 o'clock. In the afternoon a concert was given by the dramatical and musical Associations.

December. Owing to the extraordinary amount of snow there is

very little skating this winter.

December 18. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Martin Marty, O. S. B., D. D., of the Vicariate Apostolic of Dakota, is the guest of the University to-day. At the Students' Mass this morning he conferred Minor Orders on Messrs. Jas. A. Durward and Charles F. Robinson.

December 19. Rt. Rev. Bishop Marty preached a very eloquent sermon in the Students' Chapel, and departed from the University in the afternoon.

December 22. First reading of Quarterly Class Bulletins.

December 25. The students who spent the Christmas holidays at the University were not forgotten. A stately Christmas tree in the Commercial Hall had gifts for every one of them.

1887-January 5, Classes were resumed.

January 18. A solemn Requiem for the late James McMaster, Editor of the New York Freeman's Journal and the most distinguished Catholic American journalist, who died Dec. 28, 1886, was celebrated in the Students' Chapel.

January 26. The Rev. Vice President's namesday. Appropriate addresses were read by the students and the University Band furnished choice musical numbers.

February 17. Hon. D. B. Searle LL. D., delivered his first lecture on Contracts before the Commercial Class.

February 22. Washington's Birthday,—the great national holiday and college freeday was enthusiastically celebrated. In the afternoon an entertainment, complimentary to the Rt. Rev. President, who returned from the East on the day previous, was given by the Alexian Dramatic and Musical Associations. The two short comedies, "Master Goat" and "Der gescheidte Damian" caused great merriment and a never ending applause was accorded the Juvenile Orchestra of 14 pieces, which furnished some very enjoyable music.

Four brilliant, red-light tableaux, representing leading events of Washington's career, terminated the concert.

March 12. Two pool-tables were put up in the play hall for the use of students during recreation hours.

March 21. Feast of St. Benedict. This day being the greatest feast of the Benedictine Order was appropriately celebrated by a Solemn Pontifical High Mass, the Rt. Rev. Abbot officiating.

April 5. Beginning of the Easter holidays. Quite a number of students will spend the latter part of Holy Week at their homes.

The reading of the Quarterly Class Bulletins took place.

April 10. Easter Day. At Solemn Pontifical High Mass celebrated by the Rt. Rev. President, the following Rev. FF. made solemn vows for the Benedictine Order: Oswald Baran, Prefect of the Junior De-

partment, Meinrad Rettenmaier, Superintendent of the Industrial School, Henry Borgerding, Prefect of the Commercial Department and Ambrose Rank, O. S. B.

April 11. Revs. Oswald, Meinrad, Henry, Ambrose and Messrs. Dan Lynch and Pat. Cary were ordained Sub-deacons by Rt. Rev. Bishop Seidenbusch, at St. Cloud, and B. Sproll received Minor Orders.

April 12. Revs. Meinrad, Ambrose, Henry, Pat. Cary and Dan Lynch were ordained Deacons and Mr. B. Sproll Sub-deacon.

Father Benedict Haindl, O. S. B., a member of St. John's Abbey and the first who received the habit of the Benedictine Order in the United States, died yesterday morning at St. Benedict's Priory, St. Paul, Minn. He was born August 10, 1815, was ordained priest April 20, 1849, entered upon missionary labors in Minnesota April 11, 1857. He had consequently worked 38 years in his holy and noble calling.

The corpse was brought to the Monastery for interment. All the students attended the funeral services.

April 17. Revs. Isidore Siegler and Henry Borgerding, O. S. B., both Prefects in the University, were ordained priests to-day.

April 19. In testimony of the great honor conferred on their superiors, the students presented the newly ordained priests with valuable homiletical works.

April 24. Father Isidore Siegler celebrated his First Holy Mass at the University Church, at which all the students assisted. Father Henry Borgerding celebrated his First Holy Mass at Freeport, Minn.

April 25. Judge L. W. Collins, LL. D., delivered his last lecture on Commercial Paper.

May 1. This was a free-day for the students and it is superfluous to add that they enjoyed it.

May 2. The boats, having been painted and repaired, were launched. Fishing is the most popular sport this season.

May 22. Rt. Rev. Bishop Seidenbusch administered the Sacrament of Confirmation here to-day.

May 25. The Juniors had a May-party on Doctor's Island.

May 26. The boys enjoyed the first swim of the season. In the evening the University Band, assisted by the Vocal Music Class gave an open air concert.

There is little to add. Early in June a set of stage sceneries and a drop curtain painted in Chicago, arrived and was mounted for the approaching closing exercises on June 22nd. For once the play was again resorted to as the most attractive feature of the exercises. Cardinal

Wiseman's "The Hidden Gem," a favorite on Catholic stages, was excellently played.

Eleven medals were awarded, and the degree of M. A. conferred on 16 graduates of the commercial course. 179 students were enrolled — of these 27 were seminarians and 152 in all other departments. No doubt, the number was disappointing, in view of the fact that powerful efforts had been made to fit up accommodations for a class nearly twice as large. In the basement of the north wing which adjoins the church at the rear, was the play-hall; on the second, the Senior hall, above this the exhibition hall. The wing running north and south contained a dining room and lavatories, class rooms, music rooms and a dormitory, while the extension of the main building contained rooms for the faculty and guests. All the rooms were bright and airy and a vast improvement upon the earlier quarters.

1887-88

More than one hundred students were registered during the first week after the opening of school in September. For Thanksgiving day a musical and dramatical entertainment was prepared. It was held at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and was witnessed by a number of people from St. Cloud. The plays produced were "The Photograph," a bit of humor, and the three act drama "The Proscribed Heir." As usual, the Band and Orchestra supplied fine music, overtures, operatic selections, marches etc.; the former organization had, at the time 20 members, and the latter 17.

Early in December two Remington typewriting machines were installed for the benefit of commercial students and thus the foundation was laid for cultivating a branch of study much in demand. At first the instruments were not much patronized, but with the growing popularity of phonography the number of applicants for instruction on the typewriter also grew.

On December 8 the sad news of the death of the venerable arch-abbot Boniface Wimmer of St. Vincent's abbey arrived. But few there were who remembered how thirty years earlier he had visited this region to observe the growth of the shoot he had planted in the shade of the western forests. He had labored long and patiently, combatted difficulties to which many another person would have succumbed and laid his weary head to rest confident that his fourscore years had been well spent.

In the middle of December circulars were sent to alumni and friends of the institution, apprising them of the contemplated establishment of a college journal to be known as "The St. John's University Record." It was to serve as a medium of communication between the institution and former students, and a publication in which the students might make their maiden attempts at journalism. The Alexian Literary Association under direction of P. Chrysostom undertook to launch the enterprise. A sufficiently large subscription list was guaranteed in a short time and towards the end of January 1888 the first number of the "Record" appeared.

It was a 12-page quarto, running three columns to the page, was printed on slightly tinted paper and a credit to its printers, the St. Cloud *Daily Times*, who printed all the monthly issues of the "Record." The publication contained, after a prefatory observation, essays on "Economy" a biographical sketch of Pope Leo XIII. an obituary of the late archabbot Boniface Wimmer, an historical essay on Leif Ericsson and an article on "The Country of the Midnight Sun." In the editorial columns a tribute is paid to the memory of archabbot Wimmer, and nearly a column is devoted to a review of a book "How to improve Memory." Incidentally the editor apologizes for the absence of poetry from the issue and holds himself excused on the plea that he has "not yet engaged a poet to do the rhymes for the *Record*, and the depressed condition of the mercury

during the last four weeks has probably dampened the rising, ready rhymes of the traditional spring poet." Next followed a page of local items — the field from which the historian must chiefly garner his information for the next two decades. A page was given to former students; this was followed by book reviews; a list of Honorable Mention — which from that time made its appearance regularly every month. Page 10 was taken up by a batch of scientific notes, and a Sioux legend; pages 11 and 12 by anecdotes and advertisements. Among the first advertisers were H. C. Metzl, the jeweler, Dr. C. C. Rosenkranz, the dentist, Fandel & Nugent, of the Empire Store and Jos. Edelbrock of St. Cloud; D. O'Halloran, book dealer and Stierle's Pharmacy, St. Paul; Brown & Haywood of Minneapolis, B. Herder of St. Louis, Mrs. F. Bernick and St. Benedict's Academy, of St. Joseph.

The "Record" came to stay and both contributors and subscribers made its stay possible. Like many other journals, it gradually discovered that quarto was not a convenient size; accordingly it was reduced to octavo in 1891, and in that size has come down to this day. The subscription price of \$1.00 placed it within easy reach of every graduate. Frank Schaller, '68, be it said to his credit, was the first subscriber.

That January was a cold, cold month; the mercury slipped down to — 38° on the 15th, there was such a heavy snowfall that no trains passed Collegeville from the 11th to the 14th and the boys had not enjoyed one day of skating since the beginning of winter. Indoors, the Ajax athletic club was cultivating the art of boxing and other gymnastical exercises. This club which had for its motto "No mouthing: all training," was organized under the presidency of P. F. McDonough, but did not live long enough to secure recognition in the annual catalogue.

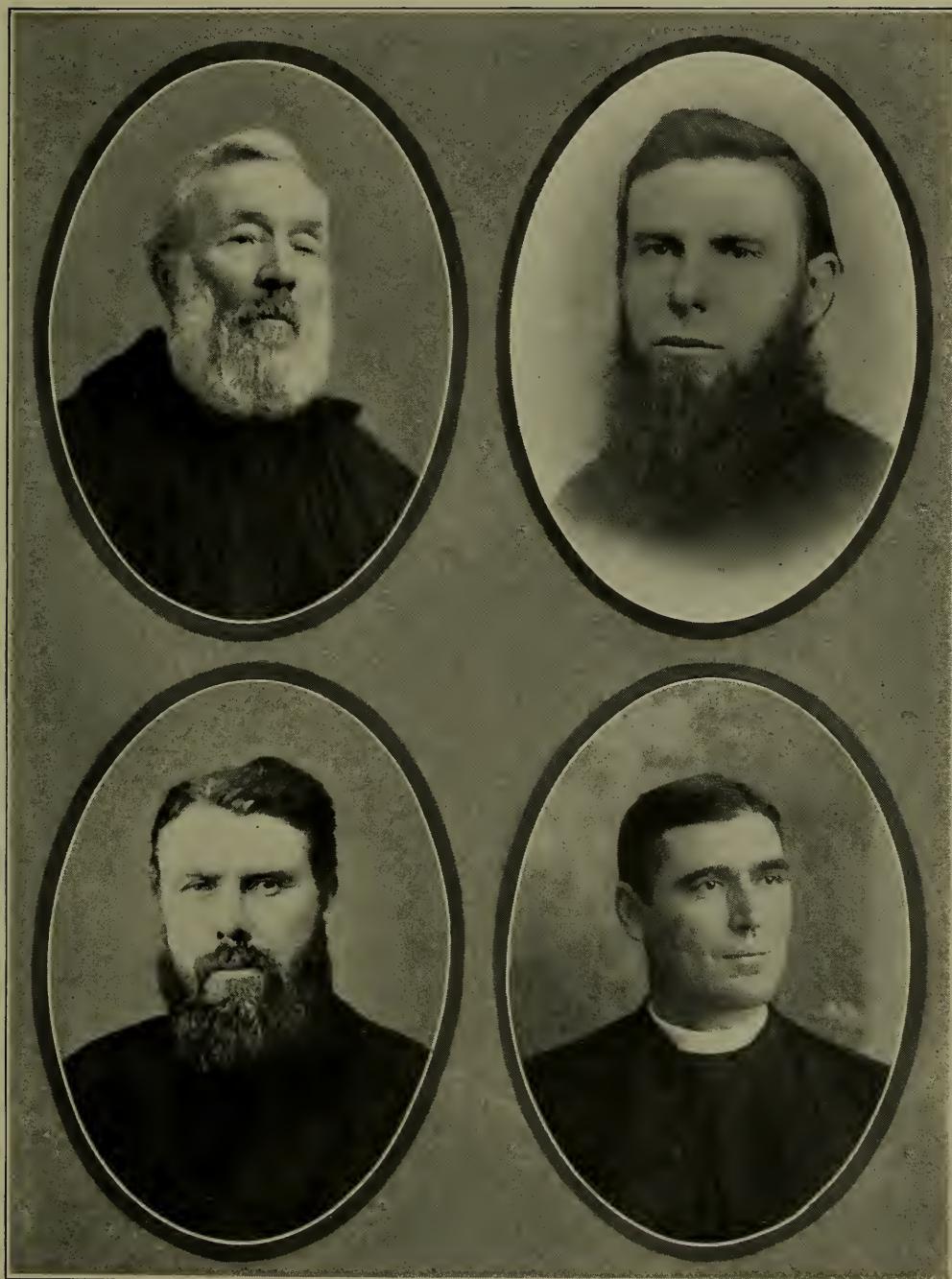
A pleasant event was the celebration of the Rev. Vice President's namesday on January 27th, the feast of St.

Chrysostom. The Record describes it as follows: "In the afternoon preceding the feast the several Departments presented their congratulations. The University Band, in the meantime rendered some of its best numbers. The Juniors substantiated their felicitations by a splendid pair of slippers and an autograph album in which each of them had inscribed some appropriate good wish. The Senior and Commercial departments had combined to donate something worth while, but their plans were waylaid by the deceitful freightcar, which failed to bring the present until the next day. The surprise was then rushed upon the Rev. Vice President. In an appropriate address the spokesman, Mas. F. Bernick, presented, in the name of all the student's, a valuable secretary. On the morning of the 27th a Solemn High Mass was sung by Rev. F. Chrysostom, after which the joys of the free-day were indulged in."

Then followed the semi-annual examinations, which were conducted by several boards of examiners who visited the various classes. 200 students were in attendance on February 1.

Washington's Birthday was celebrated by an entertainment given by the Alexian Dramatic Association. A one act drama, "King Alfred" was presented. Among the musical selections were the "American Overture," Recollections of the War" and "Flowers of St. Petersburg Waltzes."

On March 7, the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, the patron of Christian schools, was celebrated for the first time by a literary and musical entertainment. "The sacred drama 'Joseph in Egypt,' was rendered with such excellence and feeling that it drew tears from many of the audience." All the critics ventured to say in print, was that the costumes "had not quite as much of the ancient 'cut, fold and lay,' as they might have had." Mr. Joseph Langen, of the Seminary, delivered an essay on "St. Thomas, the Theo-



REV. CORNELIUS WITTMANN, O. S. B.
REV. ULRIC NORTHMAN, O. S. B.

REV. WOLFGANG NORTHMAN, O. S. B.
REV. CHRYSOSTOM SCHREINER, O. S. B.

logian;" Mr. Ambrose McNulty, of the Seminary, discoursed upon "St. Thomas, the Philosopher" and Mas Geo. Bahner described "St. Thomas at School."

Judges Collins and Searle again favored the Commercial class with a series of lectures during the spring.

Spring was late in arriving, the snow was loath to go, the ice did not disappear before April 25th and the baseball teams were growing restive. May found all reconciled to the climate, so much so that a local poet, who wrote anonymously, indulged in such strains as the following:

Come let us away while the weather is gay,
And our boat is again on the shore,
We'll row o'er the lake some pleasure to take,
And think of the days of yore, —
Those days when as boys our hearts full of joys,
Our lines in the water we pass,
And rowed right along to the tune of light song
As we hauled in the pickerel and bass.

A local reporter notes several improvements, such as the renovation of the cupola on the main buildings and the conversion of Boniface Place into a park.

During the first week in June the Ancient Order of Hibernians were holding their State convention at St. Cloud. Pursuant to an invitation from the Rev. Vice President, the delegates visited the institution in a body on June 6th. They were entertained at luncheon in the University dining room, where a number of speeches were delivered by the visitors and several members of the faculty.

On commencement day, June 21, Rev. Gerard Spielmann, O. S. B., celebrated his First Holy Mass in the college chapel. At 8 o'clock the distribution of premiums took place. No programme of exercises had been issued. There were very few visitors present and hence the celebration was a very quiet one.

Eleven gold medals and one silver medal were awarded. 22 graduates received the title of M. A. and one that of Ph. B. The total enrollment for the year was 224 — 28 seminarians and 196 in all other departments. A zinc-etching, reproduced from a photograph of the buildings, adorned the catalogue.

1888-89

During vacation a force of steam-fitters began work at installing the heating plant in the buildings. A power house 50X50 was built some 400 feet west of the buildings: in it were placed five large boilers and a pump. A supply main ran from the boiler house to the main buildings and connected with an enormous net-work of pipes which were to carry the steam to every part of the buildings. Three months were consumed in the work, and on October 17th the efficiency of the plant was tested. The day of the stove was over and the horrors of winter lost their edge. In his glee the *Record* poet burst forth into these strains:

Let old Boreas come forth from his cave in the North,
And rage in his terrible wrath,
Over hill and o'er dale till the forest doth wail,
At the blight he leaves in his path.
We heed not his blast howe'er angry 'tis cast,
It brings us not suffering or sorrow
Ten fires glow red and steam's at full head,
From these our comfort we borrow.

On Thanksgiving day the Rev. Vice-President celebrated a solemn High Mass, and delivered a short exhortation. In the afternoon the literary societies gave a short entertainment, to the success of which the musicians contributed in no small measure. Mr. A. L. McNulty was the orator of the day: his address was followed by a comical sketch "Wanted: a Confidential Clerk." The entertainment was largely enjoyed by all, "even by Jonathan Dobbs," says the *Record*, "who sees in it a vindication of the old proverb: 'All work and no play makes John a dull boy.'"

A dreary winter followed: the spirit of sport could not be roused. "What's the matter with football?" queried the local reporter. "The meagre remnants of what once was an enthusiastic crowd are a sad spectacle on the campus. What a lonesome life must be that of a football — no one to love him, no one even to kick him!" It is unnecessary to state that the Juniors found ample resources for fun in their toboggan slides.

On January 22 a printing outfit, consisting of three presses, a complete set of book and job type, paper-knife and other requisites of a printery, once owned by the defunct *St. Cloud Tribune*, was purchased and set up in the first floor of the southeast wing. From this office the *Record* was issued since February 1889, although it cost many a patient struggle, such as only an amateur printer can realize, before satisfactory work could be turned out. Owing to the lack of a sufficient quantity of book type, the February issue was printed almost entirely in bourgeois, and poorly at that, for the ink refused to flow. Several fonts of long-primer came in time for the March number. Among the notable contributions to the *Record* was a series of articles on "The First Beginnings of St. John's Abbey" from the pen of Rev. Bruno Riss, O. S. B., one of the three pioneer Benedictines of Minnesota.

The St. Boniface Literary Association took in hand the celebration of Washington's birthday and presented the German comedy "Trau, Schau, Wem," in five acts.

As early as March 28th every sign of ice had disappeared from the lake, and shortly the boating clubs fell to organizing. Some improvements had been made in the environs of the campus: there was, for instance, the rustic bridge over the narrow entrance to Caesar's Bay, which tempted a poetaster into writing a parody on Longfellow's well-known poem.

April 28 witnessed a base-ball game on the college diamond between the University and the St. Cloud team: "the

students lost the game: score, 7-15. The reporter thinks the wind was too high and the umpire's dicta arbitrary. Nevertheless he could not forbear counselling the home team to do a little more practicing and a little less—(talking, probably) if they wished to invert that score."

On April 30 the institution celebrated the centennial of President Washington's first inauguration. Many visitors from St. Cloud came to witness the exercises. The dramatic society presented the play "Under a Cloud:" an agreeable feature of the program was a vocal solo by Mr. George M. Schutz, 85, who has since scored many artistic triumphs between Minnesota and the Pacific coast.

May day was almost disfigured by an attempt at a snow-storm in the forenoon, but the clouds passed away and mild sunshine caressed the tiny buds on trees and shrub. At noon arrived His Grace Archbishop John Ireland, of St. Paul, accompanied by his secretary, Rev. John Shanley, '69. Upon invitation, Archbishop Ireland addressed the students on the importance of study as a preparation for life. It ought not only be the student's aspiration to become a learned man but also a good man. He encouraged them in eloquent and earnest words to come to the front and to be ready as Catholics to stand in the first ranks in every movement for the good of society and religion. Father Shanley fell into a reminiscent mood and charmed his audience by his humorous and graphic pictures of the past at St. John's.

During the summer the lake flotilla was increased by the addition of the sailboat "A. O. Gilman," which was capable of carrying from 15-20 persons. It had been the property of the late Dr. Gilman of St. Cloud and did service on the college lake for several years. It was a favorite excursion boat.

On June 2nd the fourteenth anniversary of the election of Abbot Alexius was celebrated. The main feature was an entertainment in the evening by the St. Boniface L. A.

supported by the Band. A two act comedy: "Three Thousand Marks" was thoroughly enjoyed and Mr. A. L. McNulty delivered an address of congratulation to which the Rt. Rev. President responded. It was his last address to the students of St. John's.

On June 13th the Rt. Rev. Abbot, accompanied by the Rev. Vice President, P. Chrysostom, left St. John's for Europe. P. Alexius Hoffmann was appointed to fill the office of vice president temporarily. The remaining days of the schoolyear were very unpleasant. Two of the students who were recovering from an attack of the measles suffered a relapse; early in the morning of June 14 one of them, George L. Hutchins, of Kingston, Minn. died, and at 8 oclock in the evening of June 15th Leo Ditter, of Ditter P. O. Minn. passed away. Closing day was almost a week distant but upon the advice of physicians and in view of the fact that there were no other cases of sickness in the college at the time, it was decided to close on the 17th. Accordingly the medals and premiums were distributed on the morning of that day and the students were dismissed in the afternoon.

The twenty-second annual catalogue was printed by the Record press and cannot be said to represent first class workmanship. On the list of professors were 20 names, besides 3 lecturers on Commercial Law. The roll of students contained 24 names of seminarians, and 185 in all other departments — total 209. Eleven gold medals and one silver medal were awarded. 20 graduates received the degree of M. A.

CHAPTER IV.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF ABBOT BERNARD LOONIKAR, 1890-94.

1889-90

During the vacation months the few students whose privilege it was to remain at the institution were not allowed to indulge in the unprofitable amusement of doing nothing, but were set to work a few hours every day improving the "park", as the peninsula known as Boniface Point came to be called. The heavy undergrowth and shrubbery was cut out, roads made, the bridge repaired and the old band-pavilion that stood in the rear of the exhibition hall removed to a prominent place at the Point. In this way the playgrounds were extended and a pleasant resort created for those who relished a walk in the shade of the summer foliage.

Students of the 80's will remember how they were not only roused from their slumbers by the brazen sound of a large hand-bell, but how that instrument was also employed to announce study time and give the signal for the opening of classes and other exercises. The electric age had dawned and to keep abreast of the times a set of electric call-bells was installed, which connected the Prefect's desk with every part of the vast buildings.

History moved on smoothly and quietly; classes were organized, the literary societies went to work unusually early, several games of base ball were played, the strum-

ing of a banjo and a mandoline were added to the varieties of music already at hand, and the chemistry class was so enthusiastic at its experiments that on one occasion "the entire building from turret to foundation stone was filled with the consequences".

Upon the erection of the diocese of St. Cloud and after the resignation of the late Bishop Seidenbush, who had presided over Northern Minnesota in the capacity of a Vicar Apostolic, Dr. Otto Zardetti was appointed as the first incumbent of the new see. He received the episcopal consecration at the venerable Benedictine monastery of Einsiedeln, in Switzerland, on October 20. (1889). Towards the end of November he arrived in St. Cloud and was the guest of St. John's on Thanksgiving day, the 28th of that month. For this purpose the interior of the buildings had been profusely decorated and no pains had been spared to offer the new prelate a reception worthy of his dignity. At the ecclesiastical functions on Thanksgiving day he occupied the throne in the sanctuary and at the conclusion of the services he delivered a brief but eloquent address. He also assisted at the musical and theatrical performances which had been prepared to grace the occasion. The members of the St. Boniface Literary Association presented a five act drama, entitled "Kronen und Palmen". Bishop Zardetti never lost an opportunity during the four years of his administration of the see of St. Cloud to visit St. John's on festival occasions and his eloquent addresses, which revealed a rare degree of scholarship, never failed to impress the student body.

Shortly before Thanksgiving day Father Chrysostom had returned from his European trip and resumed the duties of the office of vice-president. In December came the news of the resignation of Abbot Alexius Edelbrock, who had administered a burdensome and responsible office fourteen years. About a month later death removed from the scene one of the most familiar faces at the institution,

— Father Ulric Northman, the former vice-president, who departed this life after a brief illness on Jan. 21, 1890. His demise was deeply regretted by a wide circle of friends and many expressions of sympathy were received at the institution. For a little more than two decades he had without interruption been connected with the college as a teacher of music and other branches and for ten years had been vice-president.

An attractive feature of the winter evenings was a series of lectures on Rome, Egypt and the Holy Land, illustrated by stereopticon views. A fine lantern was purchased and Father Chrysostom, who had just returned from a visit to these countries, spoke interestingly of those historic places.

Early in April Father Bernard Loenikar, then pastor of the church of the Assumption in St. Paul, was elected vicar of the monastic chapter; on May 7. following he was elected abbot, in which capacity he was also to be president of the University. In the evening of the day of his election, the students prepared an enthusiastic reception for him and greeted him with speeches and music. The new abbot had been vice-president of the college during the school-year of 1873, after his ordination to the priesthood had been promoted to several monastic offices, including that of prior, but, owing to feeble health, had begged to be relieved and assigned work in the mission. Since 1879 he had been stationed in St. Paul, first as an assistant and since 1888 as pastor. The approval of his election was received from Rome on Aug. 2. and on the 27. of the same month he was solemnly installed as the third abbot of St. John's. Abbot Bernard was a holy priest and a scholarly gentleman, whose erudition won him the respect and admiration of the clergy in the Northwest. In the administration of his new duties his connection with student affairs was necessarily very slight; still the gentleness of his character and his deep piety could not fail to

impress more profoundly than eloquent words.

In the course of the summer a number of improvements were made: new bath rooms were fitted up, extensive and substantial stabling built. During summer vacation the "water tower", which contains a steel tank with a capacity of about 2800 bbls, was built and the steeple of Stella Maris chapel repaired. While a force were busily at work making the island "a thing of beauty and an abode of delight" a very sad accident happened. On the 3. of July, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, Fr. Anselm Bartholmy, one of the prefects of the Junior department lost his life while carrying sod in a boat to the island. Owing either to the weight of the sod or to some unforeseen leak in the boat, it sank and Fr. Anselm was drowned. The body was recovered next day.

The closing exercises of the scholastic year were of the simplest character and consisted merely of the award of class honors and a brief address to the outgoing class. Twelve medals were awarded and the degree of Master of Accounts conferred on 24 graduates. The total enrollment of students was 172—19 being seminarians, and 153 in all other departments.

1890-91

The change of administration caused practically no changes in the faculty of the University, except the reappointment of P. Norbert as principal of the Commercial department. P. Jerome, the late principal, was assigned missionary work.

For several years the lack of appropriate astronomical instruments had been severely felt. The faculty realized that now the time had come to provide the class with a suitable observatory and outfit. In the fall a small observatory was constructed on the top of the water tower and in February, 1891, a telescope was installed. It was an equatorial, having a four inch achromatic object glass of

rare excellence. The mounting, made by Fauth & Co., Washington, D. C., was provided with right ascension and declination circles graduated into degrees and minutes, with verniers, with clamps and tangent screws for slow motion. A driving-clock was connected with the polar axis, by means of which any celestial object could be kept in the field of view for hours without any attention on the part of the observer. Four eye-pieces of different magnifying powers completed the outfit. Time proved that the location was unsuitable for such a delicate instrument; but for four years this lofty perch remained the conning tower of the local astronomers until through the efforts of the present abbot, then professor of astronomy, the present commodious quarters were secured.

On Thanksgiving day Bishop Zardetti honored the institution with his presence at the entertainment which was prepared by the dramatic and musical associations. The play performed was "The Proscribed Heir"; the music was unusually good and Mr. J. C. McCourt's singing was highly appreciated. We may mention in passing, that Mr. McCourt subsequently entered the holy priesthood and went to his eternal reward in Aug. 1905. In the evening Bishop Zardetti delivered a scholarly and eloquent address on "The Tokens of Providential Agency in the History of the United States".

That was a comparatively snowless winter, for we read that on the 18. of January a game of base ball was played here between the Silver Crescents and the Black Diamonds, the score of which after eight innings stood even.

A few days later Father Chrysostom, who had been Vice-President of the University since spring 1885, having recently resigned the office, left for the East to assume charge of the Bahama mission, which had been entrusted to the Fathers of St. John's by the late archbishop Corrigan of New York. With all his wonted energy Father Chrysostom took this difficult task in hand and despite

countless discouragements bore the labors and hardships of this distant and humble mission with great patience. He was succeeded in the vice-presidency at St. John's by P. Alexius Hoffmann. Father Chrysostom's departure from the institution elicited many expressions of regret from his many friends. He did not forget them, however, but gave an interesting account of himself and of the conditions prevailing in his new field of labor through the columns of the *Record*.

On February 20. ruthless death took away in the flower of his youth Fr. Felix Wolke, prefect of the Junior department. He had been waging a hopeless battle against consumption for two months and expected to find some relief in a change of scene. He had been permitted to visit his parent at Pierz, and there it was the final summons came.

Washington's Birthday came and went; the celebration was not as brilliant as in former years. St. Patrick's day witnessed the time-honored parade around the "beat". On April 19. the cream of the home talent gave a musicale, the programme of which displayed a charming variety of selections, including a sextet for citherns and violins. Among the visitors on this occasion was the Rev. Alexander Christie, since 1899 archbishop of Oregon City, who addressed the students on the importance of a thorough Christian elementary education.

Shortly before the close of the school term Mr. F. E. Searle lectured to the Commercial class on Free Coinage, treating his subject without reference to political views and offering throughout an impartial statement or facts and figures to show the disadvantages of free coinage of silver.

On commencement day, June 24, twelve medals were awarded, and the degree of Master of Accounts was conferred on 38 graduates. The total enrollment was 198—18 in the seminary and 180 in all other departments.

1891-92

Among the improvements made for the new school-year was a renovation of the play-hall in the basement. A new bowling-alley was fitted up, also a pool table, horizontal bar, chest weights, striking bag, Indian clubs and dumb bells were provided. The quarters were close and gloomy, and oil lamps lit up the place in the evening. Still it was a step towards a gymnasium, an ideal which was realized ten years later.

Much regret and surprise was caused by the resignation of P. Xavier White from the staff during vacation. He had been a professor of the higher English and mathematical classes since 1876, but was now beginning to feel the advance of old age and the pressure of infirmities as the result of years of missionary labor both before he became a member of the Benedictine Order and since that time. In course of the summer he went East with the intention of giving such aid as he could in the establishment of a parish in New York city. "His spirits kept up for a very short time", says the *Record* (IV, 215) "when illness compelled him to resort to St. Francis Hospital, N. Y. Here the physicians pronounced his ailment cancer of the stomach." Feeling that he was doomed he resolved to hasten back to Minnesota, in order that he might die in the midst of his brethren at the monastery. It was while at Tonawanda, N. Y., where he paid a short visit to his sister, that death overtook him on September 26. He was interred by the Benedictine Fathers of St. Mary's Abbey at Newark, N. J.

On November 1. the death of P. Meinrad Rettenmaier occurred at Duluth. He was connected with the University as a professor for a short time in 1883 and 1884, and for several years was superintendent of the Industrial school, which was established at St. John's for Chippewa Indian boys in 1885.

An eclipse of the moon in November attracted the attention of the class in astronomy. A meagre report of the phenomenon strayed into the columns of the *Record* and since it is the first report of its kind, we reprint it in its entirety: "The conditions for observing the lunar eclipse of Nov. 15 were very unfavorable. A heavy snowstorm prevailed during the whole day, to the great dismay of our local astronomers. During supper, however, the sky became clear, and for nearly an hour Luna showed her darkened countenance to the anxious observers, until it was again veiled by accumulating clouds. Some interesting observations were made, which are, however, not of sufficient importance to the general reader to warrant their publication in these columns." (IV. 238)

The most notable event of the winter was the installment of a large pipe organ in the abbey church. The instrument was built by W. Schuelke, of Milwaukee, and cost about \$3000. Its outer case is made of polished oak with handsome panels and carving. The key action desk is located at some distance from the organ, allowing the organist to face the altar. It has two manuals of 58 keys each, and a pedal of 27 keys. The motive power of the bellows is furnished by a Tuerk water moter which may be regulated by a spindle operated at the key desk. The dedicatory services were held on December 15. and were attended by the Bishop of St. Cloud and a number of clergymen and prominent organists.

On Jan. 12, 1892, the students arranged a reception for the Most Rev. William H. Gross, archbishop of Oregon City, who visited the institution accompanied by his brother, the late Rev. Mark Gross, and Rev. Edward J. O'Dea, the present bishop of Nesqually, Washington. A few pleasant hours were spent in listening to choice music and the charming, genial eloquence of the archbishop.

In the way of entertainments the year was a busy one. Aside from the reception already mentioned, the newly

organized Thespian club produced "The Wags of Windsor" on Dec. 22, 1891, "Falsey Accused" on Washington's Birthday and March 8: "Waiting for the Train" on Decoration Day, and "The Dutch Recruit" on Commencement day. The St. Boniface L. A. performed "The Strike" on May 9. and "Der dicke Bildschnitzer" on June 6.

This commencement was called the 25th annual commencement, as it was customary to count from the establishment of the college on its present site in 1867. Hence the catalogue of that year was made especially attractive; it was printed on superior paper and embellished with several half-tone engravings. In addition to the usual information, there was a brief sketch of the history of the institution since 1867, together with a list of all the graduates and professors during those twenty-five years. The whole number of professors was 106; the degree of D. D. had been conferred on 3 candidates, that of Ph. D. on 2, that of A. M. on 4, that of Ph. B. on 24, that on A. B. on 24, and that of M. A. on 366. For the year 1892 the total enrollment was 251—33 seminarians and 218 in all other departments. Eleven medals were awarded; the degree of Ph. B. was conferred on 5, that of A. B. on 3 and that of M. A. on 32 graduates.

1892-93

The vacation crew took up the work of beautifying the surroundings. A canal was dug between Boniface bay and Caesar's lake, the road around the "beat" was extended southward to the lake shore and then around the lake to the chapel island. Two rustic bridges were built over the swamps on the other side and made the chapel accessible afoot.

The attendance during the first month was 150, a very encouraging figure for the Columbian year, and by all accounts it was a live attendance at both work and play.

In the *Record* (V, 191) we read: "Through the efforts of our professor of physics, Father Peter, a Voluntary

Meteorological Station in connection with the U. S. Signal Service will be located here. Most of the necessary instruments, such as the barometer, anemometer with electrical recording attachment, exposure, maximum and minimum thermometer, hygrometer, rain gauge etc. have already arrived and will be placed in the cupola of the main building where daily observations will be recorded and forwarded to the Weather Bureau at Minneapolis. Arrangements will be completed in the early part of October." Just four-hundred years after the discovery of America, on October 12, 1892, the Station was opened and has kept a faithful record of the weather ever since.

Both of the Columbian days, the 12th and the 21st, were appropriately observed. Bishop Zardetti had directed that the religious services on the 21st "consist of High Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of the Holy Trinity, with the Te Deum and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament". Accordingly the Right Rev. Abbot officiated at pontifical High Mass in the forenoon, while the afternoon was devoted to an entertainment at which the members of the St. Boniface L. A. presented a historical drama in five acts, entitled "Columbus".

Among the visitors in November was Bishop McGolrick of Duluth, who was accorded a unique reception. An amateur campaign marching club, which had played a noisy but unimportant part in the presidential campaign just closed, rallied some 80 strong and held a torchlight procession in honor of the distinguished guest. After the parade the Bishop addressed the student in the exhibition hall.

Stray notes from the local reporter's scrap book are to the effect that in course of the scholastic year five new Remington typewriting machines were purchased to meet the increasing popularity of that branch of study; also that a class in Civics was organized and that the museum was slowly but surely growing.

On March 28. Abbot Bernard departed for Rome to attend the laying of the cornerstone for the new Benedictine college of San Anselmo. In view of the fact that he would have an audience with the Holy Father, the students prepared an album containing congratulatory addresses in nine languages, viz.; Latin Italian, French, English, German, Polish, Bohemian, Slavonian and Chippewa. Attached were the signatures of all the students and of the faculty. A modest reception was arranged for the Right Rev. Abbot on the eve of his departure when the album was handed to him. He did not return until the latter part of July.

Needless to say the literary and dramatic societies contributed their share toward keeping up the spirits throughout the year. The Thespians presented programs on October 12th, Thanksgiving day, and Washington's Birthday, while the St. Boniface L. A. held the boards on October 21 in the play already mentioned, and on March 7. produced that grand and impressive drama, "Sir Thomas More", echoes of which have come down to our day. An unusual degree of interest was displayed in music, both vocal and instrumental. Besides the orchestra of 18 pieces there was a brass band of 24 pieces and a new orchestra club under the leadership of John Rodenkirchen, who has for several years past been prominent in musical circles in our State. There was also a vocal club called the "Liederkranz".

On commencement day eleven medals were awarded; the degree of Ph. B. was conferred on one graduate and that of M. A. on 24. The total enrollment this year was 272—34 seminarians and 238 in all other departments.

1893-94

During the months of July and August a force of painters were engaged to paint and grain the wood work in the college buildings, and to decorate the exhibition



RT. REV. BERNARD LOCNIKAR, O. S. B.

hall. At the same time the old stone-house, which was the only building that constituted St. John's College in 1867, was torn down, owing to the defective condition of its walls. It was never replaced by any other structure, but a large flower-bed marks its site at the south end of the present house. "In a few years", says the *Record* at this time, "the pioneer student who recollects the day when the brass band played 'Home, Sweet Home' on the cupola of the edifice, will return to find not the slightest trace of St. John's as it then was, save the majestic forest, the silvery lake whose gentle waves lap the sandy shores, and, above all, the cordial welcome and hospitality it ever extends, which forms the ground work of an edifice against which the tooth of time is powerless."

In compliance with the wish of Pope Leo XIII, that the new college of San Anselmo be a central university for the entire Order and that its students should be recruited from all the Benedictine monasteries, Fr. Michael Ott was selected to represent St. John's. He left for Rome in the fall and entered upon an advanced course in Philosophy, from which he graduated two years later. About the same time, Fr. Otto Weisser was sent to Ratisbon for a higher course in Music.

After presiding over the diocese of St. Cloud for four and one-half years, Bishop Zardetti was created archbishop of Bucharest in Roumania. He paid his farewell visit to St. John's on April 24, 1894, on which occasion a reception was tendered him. Although he expressed the fervent hope that he might find an opportunity to revisit the West within no very distant period of time, it was not to be. He resigned the see of Bucharest about three years later and retired to Rome, where he died May 10, 1902.

Among the improvements of this year may be mentioned the installment of a private telephone line in the buildings, and of a telegraph office, concerning which the *Record* says: "The line runs from the University to Collegeville,

thence along the railroad track and on the telegraph company's poles to St. Joseph depot. A set of new instruments has been installed in an office on the first floor of the University. Father Agatho is in charge of the office. The first message was sent over the new line on June 6." This line did service for many years, but at present is almost entirely superseded by the long-distance telephone.

Commencement day, June 21st, was made memorable by the presence of the Governor of the State, the Hon. Knute Nelson, now U. S. Senator. It was the first time the institution was able to chronicle such an event, and neither faculty nor students spared any efforts to make his stay as pleasant as possible. At the closing exercises he conferred the medals and diplomas and delivered a brief and forcible address.

On the rolls were the names of 234 students - 37 seminarians and 197 in all other departments. Nine medals were awarded, the degree of Ph. B. was conferred on 5 and that of M. A. on 35 graduates.

Scarcely had the echoes of the school year died away when the institution was visited by a catastrophe, the traces of which will remain visible for a number of years.

"The heat had been oppressive for several days. A storm was expected on the evening of the 26th of June, but it did not come. On the 27th the barometer stood at an unusually low point. Towards evening heavy clouds drew up and at 7:30 a strong rainstorm came on. It lasted for about 15 minutes and was followed by hail, though only for a minute. Then came a sullen calm for a few minutes, the current of air from the northwest met that from the southeast at some point south from here, and a funnel-shaped cloud was observed moving toward us. Suddenly at 8:30 it grew dark, the winds began to howl and the fatal whirlwind was upon us. A few seconds sufficed to create a desolation this community never saw on its grounds. The air was filled with flying timbers, furniture,

limbs of trees and everything the wind could pick up; windows crashed, doors closed violently or were pressed open, and through the flashes of lightning could be seen the wreck outside." The track of the cyclone lay over the lake; it first unroofed the laundry and wrecked the adjoining engine room and smoke-stack. The main buildings were attacked on the south-east end, which was occupied by the Industrial School. The pupils were on the point of retiring for the night, when the cyclone set in. They were hurried out of their dormitory and not a second too soon, for just as the last pupil stepped into the middle building, the upper floors of the building which they had left were carried away. The roof of the main building was slightly damaged, all the chimneys blown down, the weather station was wrecked and the turret-cap moved out of position. The engine-house which contains the heating plant was also wrecked, but fortunately the boilers did not sustain any serious damage; the roofs were blown from all the out-buildings, of which there were about ten. The new brick barn, one of the largest and finest in the State, was a total wreck, with exception of the stone stabling in the lower floor.

However serious the disaster appeared to be, it was a source of great satisfaction that not a single human life had been lost.

Soon masons and carpenters were at work repairing the damage and before vacation was past, the authorities were able to announce that school work would be resumed in September. Few scars of the cyclone are visible on the buildings, but many and many a year will pass before the forest trees that were blown down that evening and left the surrounding country a bleak desert, can be replaced. God spare us from another such a visitation.

CHAPTER V.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF ABBOT PETER ENGEL FROM 1894 TO THE PRESENT TIME.

1894-95

Of those who were at St. John's during the cyclone, no one seems to have been so deeply affected by the disaster as Abbot Bernard. He had for years been in delicate health and the shock of the disaster evidently hastened the ravages of disease. After the new school year was well under way, he set out upon a journey of visitation to the various missions in charge of Fathers of the Abbey. Towards the end of October he broke down completely and on advice of his physician retired to Stillwater, where he received kind care and attention in the rectory of St. Mary's church, of which Rev. Alphonse Kuisle, O. S. B. was then pastor. He never recovered from his ailment, which proved to be Bright's disease, and on November 7th the wire carried the sad intelligence to the abbey that he was dead. The funeral services and interment took place at the abbey on November 14th, Abbot Alexius Edelbrock, his predecessor, officiating as celebrant. The bishops of Jamestown, Sioux Falls and Winona, the administrator of the vacant see of St. Cloud and four abbots assisted at the services. Bishop Shanley of Jamestown delivered the sermon, in the course of which he paid eloquent tributes to the memory of the deceased as a priest, monk and superior.

Abbot Bernard was born in the province of Krain, South-

ern Austria, in the village of Bitnje, of poor parents September 29, 1848. His widowed mother lacked the means to give him even an elementary education, but a priest of his acquaintance furnished him an opportunity to study at the gymnasium of Krainburg and at the Aloysianum of Laibach. While reading of the labors of his illustrious countrymen, the late Bishop Baraga of Sault St. Marie, and Rev. F. Pierz, among the Indians of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, he became inflamed with a desire of going there and spending his life and energies in the mission among the Indians. With this purpose in view he left his native soil in 1868 with his mother and brother and came to the United States. The terminus of their journey was Stearns County in Minnesota. Here, while his mother and brother settled on a small farm near Albany, he made the acquaintance of the Benedictine Fathers at St. Louis abbey and concluded to remain with them, hoping that in course of time he might be able to carry out his original resolve. As he had already completed an excellent classical course, he was at once sent into the noviciate of the Order and spent the following three years in theological studies. On December 22, 1872 he was ordained a priest; he had been appointed vice-president of the college in November (p. 40) and retained this office to the end of the school year. During the next seven years he attended small missions in the neighborhood of the abbey, was also sub-prior of the monastery from 1875-1877, and prior from 1877-1879. Then, as has already been stated, he became assistant and subsequently rector of the church of the Assumption in St. Paul, where he remained up to the time of his election to the abbatial chair. His death was deeply regretted and lamented not only by his brethren but by a wide circle of friends among the clergy and laity.

Two weeks later, on November 28. the Fathers of the abbey met in chapter to elect a successor to the late Abbot. The choice fell upon the subprior and Director

of Studies, Very Rev. Peter Engel. Father Peter, by which name he is known to a large number of alumni, was born near Port Washington, Wisconsin, February 3, 1856, a few months before the first colony of Benedictines entered Minnesota. In his early boyhood his parents removed to Minnesota and settled at St. Michael's in Wright County, and the future abbot was sent to school to St. John's College in 1869. While pursuing the course of studies, he felt attracted to the monastic life and determined to become a Benedictine. He was admitted to the novitiate in 1874, made simple profession July 19, 1875 and was ordained a priest December 15, 1878. On August 15th of the following year he was appointed sub-prior of the abbey and occupied that position to the time of his election as Abbot. Ever since 1875 he had been one of busiest professors at St. John's, his specialties being philosophy and the natural sciences. In addition he performed the duties of a Director of Studies since 1882 and of a Master of Novices since 1887. No one was better acquainted with the state of affairs and the needs of such a vast institution than Abbot Peter, for he had spent two consecutive decades on the spot and had been intimately in touch with the work of both the monastery and college. The election was ratified by Rome and the documents arrived at the abbey towards the end of January 1895. His solemn benediction and installation was postponed to the summer months, but he entered at once upon the discharge of his duties.

The completion of the new observatory during the summer had been prevented by the unfortunate cyclone. In fall, however, work was resumed and within a month after the election of Abbot Peter, to whose efforts the building of the observatory was due, the instruments were installed. The observatory "crows the hill which is about 200 yards east of the University and south of the road leading to Collegeville. The top of the revolving

dome is 32 feet from the ground. The entrance faces south and leads to the computation room; its dimensions are 10X13½ feet. Adjoining it is the transit instrument and the chronograph; this part is 9½X12½ feet. From here we enter the round tower, which has a diameter of 16 feet. In the center rises a pier of masonry to the height of 19 feet. Altogether independent it pierces the second floor and wears a cap of Kasota stone 8 inches thick, to which the telescope is bolted." (*Record*, Jan. 1895. 2) The structure is built of red brick and the revolving dome is of tin. Immediately upon its completion it was equipped with appropriate instruments from the factory of G. N. Saegmueller & Co., Washington D. C.

In February 1895 the new bishop of St. Cloud, Mgr. Martin Marty, O. S. B. was installed in office, and on March 21. the feast of St. Benedict, he was the guest of the abbey, where he officiated at pontifical High Mass in accordance with the tradition established by Bishop Zardetti. Bishop Marty's administration covered less than two years and yet within that time he favored the institution with many visits.

On May 25. 1895 P. Paul Rettenmaier O. S. B., professor of philosophy and other branches from 1872-77, died at Arlington, Minn., where he was temporarily stationed as rector. He was born in Wuerttemberg in 1853, made vows as a Benedictine 1871 and was ordained a priest December 25, 1875. With exception of the five years mentioned above, he was engaged in pastoral work in Minnesota and North Dakota. He was a man of keen mind, bright intelligence and very enthusiastic in every work he took in hand. His principal regret was that ill health defeated all his best intentions, especially during the latter part of his life. His younger brother, P. Meinrad, died four years before (p. 100).

Nine days later, June 3, the venerable Bishop Rupert Seidenbusch, who had presided over St. John's as its first

abbot from 1867-1875, breathed his last in Richmond, Virginia, while on his way to Minnesota from Savannah, Ga. where he had spent the preceding winter. His remains were brought to St. John's and interred in the abbey cemetery on June 11th. Bishop Rupert Seidenbusch was born in Munich, the capital of Bavaria, October 13. 1830, studied in the schools of his native country till 1850 when he came to the United States and entered the Benedictine order at St. Vincent's abbey. He was ordained a priest June 22, 1853, served several years in the mission in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and was prior of St. Vincent's from 1862-1867, which position he held when he was chosen first abbot of St. Louis on the Lake. After governing the abbey eight years he was appointed Vicar Apostolic of Northern Minnesota. For thirteen years he continued to administer this difficult office, when increasing infirmities compelled him to resign in November 1888. He spent the remainder of his life in retirement from active duties and usually sought relief during the winter months in Los Angeles or Savannah. Few tributes to his memory were as striking as that in the *Ave Maria* (Notre Dame Ind.): "The late Bishop Seidenbusch, O. S. B. was another of those silent workers whose selfless lives have helped to upbuild the Church in America. Twenty years ago he was called from the quiet Benedictine Abbey to organize a new vicariate in Northern Minnesota over which he presided with singular success until the erection of the see of St. Cloud. The pioneer work had then been done, but Bishop Seidenbusch was broken in health and he willingly laid down the episcopal burden to labor not less devotedly in a humbler capacity. His life was as edifying as it was full of great deeds for the Church and he was especially devout to the Blessed Virgin."

Apart from the inauguration of the observatory no prominent event in the development of the college is to be chronicled for this year. Abbot Peter continued to



RT. REV. PETER ENGEL, O. S. B.

act as Director of Studies even after his election and to the end of the schoolyear. P. Oswald Baran had been appointed Principal of the Commercial Department in the fall of 1894. The dramatic societies exhibited very few plays, the principal of which was "Garcia Morenos Tod." which was played by members of the St. Boniface L. A. to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of its foundation. The total number of students enrolled was only 223; 36 seminarians and 187 in all other departments. On commencement day, June 20th, the degree of B. A. was conferred on 2 candidates, that of Ph. B. on 5. and that of M. A. on 25. Nine gold medals were awarded.

On July 10th a great meeting of the Alumni was held and on the 11th Abbot Peter Engel was solemnly installed in office by the ordinary of the diocese, Bishop Marty, in presence of the Archbishop of St. Paul, Most Rev. J. Ireland, Bishops McGolrick of Duluth, Shanley of Jamestown, Fink O. S. B. of Kansas City, Kas. and Haid O. S. B. Vicar Apostolic of North Carolina, four abbots and a great number of secular and regular clergymen.

1895-96

In the second year of his administration, Abbot Bernard had resolved to extend the activity of the Benedictine order to the Pacific coast in response to an invitation from the late Bishop Junger of Nesqually, Washington. Property was purchased in Thurston County, Washington, about 4 miles east of Olympia and 29 miles from Tacoma for the purpose of founding a monastery and college. Here an elegant frame structure, 100 feet long and 60 feet wide, four stories high, was built and ready for occupancy late in the summer of 1895. Fathers William Eversmann and Wolfgang Steinkogler were the pioneers in this western mission; they were joined in the spring of 1895 by P. Demetrius Juenemann, and when, in August of the same year, Abbot Peter paid his first official visit to the young

foundation, he took with him P. Oswald Baran, whom he appointed Director of St. Martin's College, as the new institution was named. In September followed Fr. Benedict Schmit and three lay brothers, among whom was Bro. William who for a quarter of a century had presided over the kitchen at St. John's. The College was opened in September to a small class which, however, has been constantly growing until now it has crept far above the hundred mark. At later periods Fathers Matthew Britt, Justin Welz, Adolph Dingmann, Mark Wiechmann and Ulric Scheffold joined the faculty. Even the venerable pioneer of St. John's, P. Cornelius Wittmann, in 1896 volunteered to go West and devote the rest of his life to another pioneer task. Nine years later, however, having almost completely lost his eyesight, he returned to St. John's, where if Heaven grant him respite he will be able to greet the alumni of 1857 at the jubilee celebration. — St. Martin's developed so rapidly that in the winter of 1903 arrangements were made to organize the community as an independent priory. On March 9. 1904, P. Demetrius Juenemann was elected the first canonical prior of St. Martin's and duly confirmed by the Holy See.

At St. John's, P. Oswald was replaced as Principal of the Commercial Department by P. Norbert Hofbauer. Having completed an advanced course in philosophy in Rome and graduated with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, P. Michael Ott returned from Rome in September and was appointed Prefect of Studies, which position he still occupies. In October of the same year Fr. Bruno Doerfler was sent to Rome to pursue advanced courses at the college of San Anselmo.

Work during the second term was seriously hampered by a siege of diphtheria which began in March and lasted to the end of April. None of the cases, which exceeded fourscore in number (including the pupils of the Industrial school), proved fatal. Classes were not, however, in-

interrupted, even for a single day and those who were not afflicted, adapted themselves to the situation stoically while the quarantine lasted. For the closing event, a play was again resorted to; the dramatic societies selected the Shakespearian comedy "The Merchant of Venice", in an adapted form, and played it fairly well on the eve of commencement day. The closing exercises were held on June 24th, the Bishop of St. Cloud presiding for the last time. (He died September 19th, 1896). Nine gold medals were awarded; the degree of A. M. was conferred on 2 candidates; that of Ph. B. on 5; that of B. A. on 3 and that of M. A. on 33. The total enrollment was 227, of which number 45 were seminarians and 182 in all other departments.

1896-97.

The Industrial school for Indian boys established in January 1885 was discontinued in June 1896 and the building occupied by the pupils became available for other purposes. The first floor of the building, the southern wing, which was damaged by the cyclone, was converted into shops and store-rooms, the second floor was the temporary quarters of the abbey library, while the third floor was devoted to the museum and physcial cabinet. Numerous generous donors had for years past presented curious and valuable specimens of every description, which for lack of proper space could not be displayed to advantage.

Among other improvements may be noted the organization of a reading room in connection with the students' library, in its present quarters. The circulating library which at that time contained about 2000 bound volumes, among them many valuable reference works, was henceforth daily at the disposal of those students who were ambitious to avail themselves of every opportunity to supplement their course of study by judicious reading. Short-

ly, magazines and newspapers were added to the equipment.

Pleasant occasions for the students of '97 were the visit of Bishop Shanley on September 29th and of Archbishop Gross on Thanksgiving day. In the lecture course the most notable numbers were the lectures by Judge L. W. Collins and Mr. J. D. Sullivan, then county attorney of Stearns county.

Hitherto the twin church towers had harbored but one bell; in the spring of 1897 a chime of five bells was cast by Gardiner Campbell & Sons, Milwaukee, under supervision of Prof. John Singenberger. They range in weight from 6150 to 1900 lbs, and are tuned to A, B, D, E, and F-sharp respectively. On May 12 Abbot Peter consecrated the chime; three days later its harmonious tongues pealed forth upon the evening air a song as full and sweet as these solitudes had never heard before.

One of first offices of the chime was to lament the death of one of the ancient figures in the history of St. John's. On May 19 Brother Thaddeus Hoermann — Bro. "Taddy" he was familiarly called — closed his eyes in death after a life of almost fifty years spent in religion as a humble lay brother. For nearly thirty years his slow, lumbering conveyance had carried many a student or visitor from and to the railroad station, even before there was a railroad station at St. Cloud; nor did rain or shine either alter his schedule or the evenness of his temper. When advancing years incapacitated him for the service, he was sent to the monastery farm at West Union. The last days of his long life were spent at the Abbey. May his memory never perish.

A month after the installation of the bells, the great clock was put in position in the south tower of the church. Its mechanism operates the hands on the eight large dials — four in each tower — and connects with the chime which strikes the quarters and full hours by day and night in all seasons.

One of the last academic events was the oratorical contest on June 13th for a medal to be awarded in elocution. Only the board of judges, members of the faculty selected for the occasion, witnessed the struggle which lasted two hours and for which there were eight entries.

Commencement day was celebrated very quietly: no elaborate programme had been prepared. On June 24th the usual award of prizes took place and before that day's sun had set, the class had scattered in all directions. On the list of the faculty were the names of 32 professors, besides three lecturers: the total enrollment of students was 227,—of which 39 were seminarians and 188 students of all other departments. The degree of Ph. B. was conferred on one candidate, that of M. A. on 34 graduates of the commercial course. Eleven medals were awarded.

1897—1898

These annals now have arrived within a decade of the present time. The closer the chronicler approaches the present, the more embarrassed is he in his choice of material from the numerous sources at his disposal. Hence he will confine himself to the principal events, leaving to some future historian the task of narrating the story of this decade in greater detail.

Fr. Alcuin Deutsch was sent to the college of San Anselmo in Rome to pursue a higher course in Philosophy and kindred branches; and P. Anselm Ortmann attended special courses at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. P. Ulric Scheffold was appointed Principal of the Commercial Department as successor to P. Norbert, who now permanently retired from this department with which he had been connected, with exception of a few years, since its establishment in 1878.

Repeatedly dissatisfaction was expressed with the system according to which sports were conducted: here and there a voice timidly queried, Why not start something

like an Athletic Association? — The question was finally taken up and an organization by that name was called into being during the second term.

On October 16th Bishop James Trobec, the successor of the late Bishop Marty in the see of St. Cloud, paid his first visit as a bishop to St. John's and was accorded a reception. The students and members of the community formed a procession which escorted his carriage from the observatory to the abbey church where he was received according to the ceremonial. On the following day, which was the anniversary of the consecration of the church, he officiated at solemn pontifical High Mass and on the next day, the 18th, for the first time held ordinations here.

The best stage production of the year was Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar", which was played on Washington's Birthday under the direction of Mr. Lawrence J. Vaughan, whose acquaintance with the stage eminently qualified him to produce something worthy of notice. Mr. Vaughan himself played the role of Mark Antony. We may observe in passing that since his ordination Mr. Vaughan has gained the reputation of being a scholarly and convincing orator and lecturer in various parts of this country and Canada.

During the summer work was begun at decorating the church: the work was designed and executed by Mr. Geo. F. Satory of Winona, Minn.

On three evenings in June the University Band gave open air concerts on the lawn before the main building. During the same month Mr. John P. Winter, '95, a graduate of the commercial course and just on the threshold of his career as an attorney at law, delivered several interesting lectures on topics of Commercial Law.

A hot week of examinations followed—heat, such as no class of students ever experienced here. All kinds of cooling devices were used in vain and it was a great relief that commencement was set for the 22nd. On that day

Bishop Trobec celebrated Holy Mass for the students and administered the sacrament of Confirmation to a class of 33. At 9 o'clock a. m. the schoolyear was formally closed with the distribution of prizes and award of degrees. The diploma of M. A. was conferred on 42 graduates of the commercial course and 8 gold medals were awarded. The total enrollment for the year was 259 — of which number 43 were seminarians and 216 in all other departments.

1898-99

The Seminary, which had hitherto been under the immediate supervision of a Prefect now received a Rector, the first to hold the office being P. Athanasius Meyer. Then as now, the members of the two classes in philosophy as well as the students of theology were called seminarians.

Little by little the electrical era began to manifest its presence: there were electric bells, electric clocks, the telegraph, the telephone, even some demonstrations with wireless telegraphy and X-rays had been made, but the most substantial accomplishment was the introduction of electric light. Owing to the isolated location of the institution, it was necessary to build a power house for the dynamos and engine, and to "wire" the vast buildings, not forgetting even the laundry, observatory and stables. Work was begun during the summer and on October 10th the service was tested. The study-halls were now brilliantly lit up by dazzling clusters of lamps: in the church the old Bailey reflectors with their oil-lamps made way for scores of incandescent bulbs arranged artistically about the capitals of pillars and along the walls of the sanctuary and shedding a light that lent new charms to the soft colors and gleams of gold in the decorations.

On September 24th occurred the death of P. Anthony Capser, who is known to the students of several classes as a professor and disciplinarian. He was 57 years of age and had served many years in the mission in Pennsylvania

and the Western States.

On January 19th, 1899, the students attended services for the repose of the soul of Rev. E. J. Lawler, '84, who died January 17th. He was pastor of Hinckley when that town was wiped out by flames in 1894 and many lives were lost. On that occasion he did heroic service, but his health suffered such a shock in consequence that he never fully recovered. At the time of his death he was chaplain of St. Marys Hospital, Duluth.

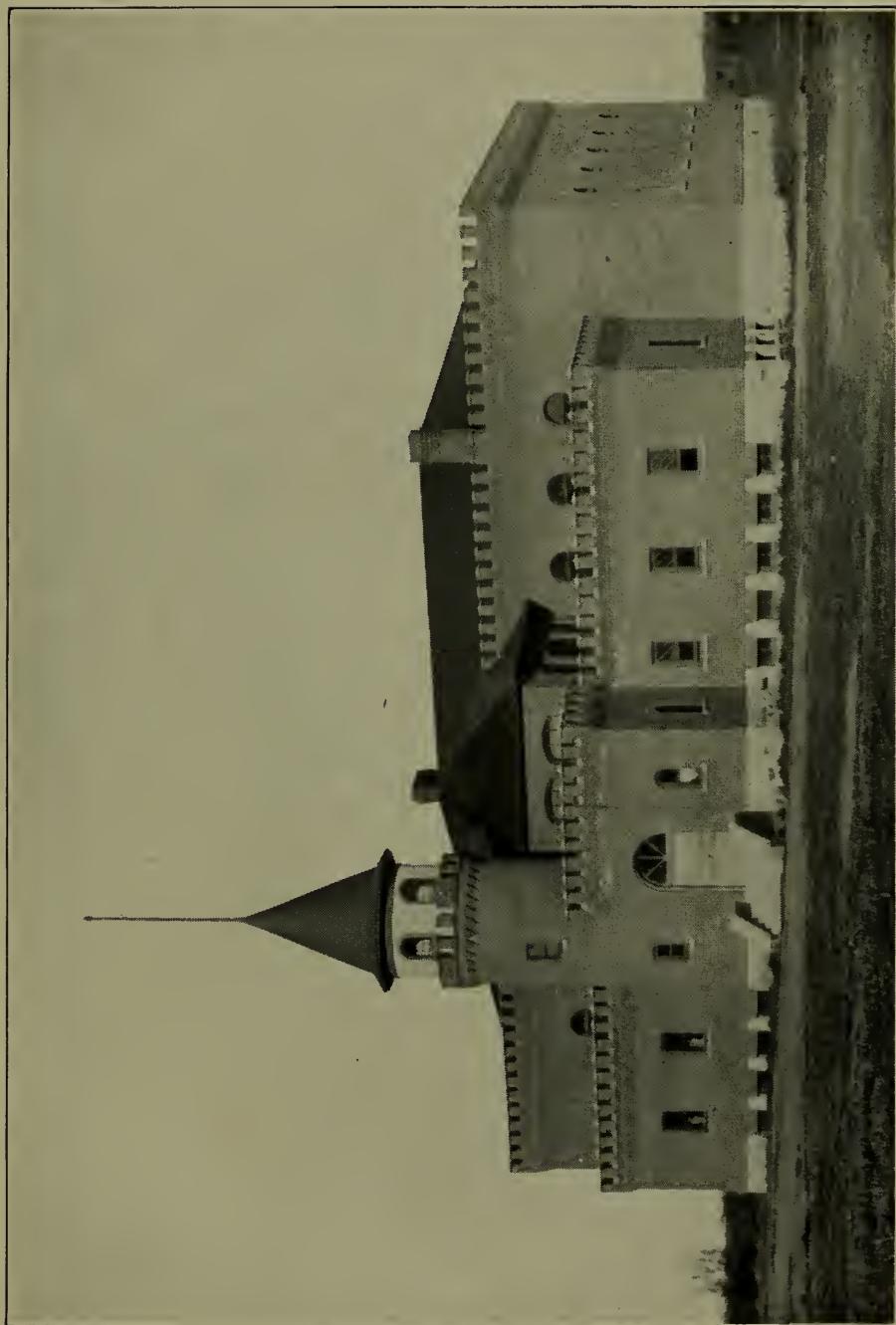
By far the best dramatic production of the year was that entitled "Fidelis von Sigmaringen" by the members of the St. Boniface L. A. during an entertainment complimentary to Bishop Trobec on March 21st.

In the lecture course appeared Judges Searle and Collins, and Mr. P. J. Winter, whose services merit the thanks of many classes that had the pleasure to listen to gentlemen of such distinction and ability.

On May 4 the seminarians in a body repaired to St. Cloud to assist at the obsequies of their late fellow-student, Mr. Matthias Meyer, whose life had been cut short by consumption when he was about to enter upon the course of theological studies. He was a brother of P. Athanasius Meyer, the Rev. Rector of the Seminary.

The schoolyear terminated on June 23d when the class honors were awarded. Bishop Trobec and Rev. Dr. Heffron, rector of St. Paul Seminary, himself an old student of '79, addressed the outgoing class. The degree of Ph. B. was conferred on 2 candidates, that of A. M. on one, and that of M. A. on 30. Eight medals were awarded. The total enrollment was 237 — of which number 47 were seminarians and 190 students in all other departments.

During vacation P. Placidus Wingerter went to Rome to be a professor at the Greek College of San Atanasio, and P. Bruno Doerfler, who returned from the Eternal City, was appointed Director of the University to succeed P. Alexius Hoffmann.



GYMNASIUM

1899-1900

From the catalogue of 1899 it appears that the old designation of classes by numerals — such as First Class, Second Class etc. — was no longer acceptable. The Preparatory course was now to be styled the Elementary course, with three years assigned for its work. The Classical course was made to comprise seven years: the Academic department comprised the third, second and first Academic classes, the Collegiate department comprised the classes of Humanities, Poetry, Rhetoric and Philosophy. For the Ecclesiastical course four years were assigned,—one year of Philosophy, in addition to that in the Classical course, and three of Theology and allied studies.

If the Scientific course was up to this time treated as a "useful complement of a liberal education", it was owing to the limited facilities for offering the student a comprehensive course. The time had arrived when it became advisable to establish a separate course for sciences. The faculty offered courses in General Physics, Applied Electricity, Mechanics, Astronomy, Zoology and Botany.

In the Seminary P. Bernard Kevenhoerster succeeded P. Athanasius Meyer as Rector; he has filled the office since that time to the present day. P. Athanasius was appointed to the responsible position of a master of novices in which capacity, in addition to numerous professorial duties, he is still active.

During the vacation preceding the schoolyear, the plastered ceilings in several of the class rooms were replaced by ceilings of pressed steel, and the rickety wooden staircase leading to the northside entrance made way for an elegant iron structure.

On Thanksgiving day the several musical organizations presented a very interesting programme, in which the vocal numbers were especially highly appreciated. On Dec. 20, on the eve of the beginning of the Christmas holidays, the Alexian L. A. presented the drama "William

Tell," an adaptation of Schiller's famous drama.

Again relentless death knocked at the college gate, this time summoning in the prime of his life P. Lambert Thelen. He was born in Chicago, Ill., August 25, 1874, made his entire course at St. John's, became a member of the Benedictine Order in 1895 and was ordained a priest March 22, 1899. As early as May 1898, his health gave way and he was compelled to retire from active work. In July 1899 he was sent to Colorado to find relief in the air of the mountain region. All efforts were of no avail; he died at Pueblo, Colo., March 8, 1900, and his remains were brought to St. John's for burial.

During the ensuing summer strenuous efforts were made to beautify the landscape with trees. The cyclone had swept away many acres of woodland and the bitter blasts of winter had full sway. Several brave attempts had already been made at building up a new forest, notably on the peninsula opposite the laundry, called "Adrianople," and in the tract between Caesar's bay and Boniface bay. The good work was continued north of the buildings, along the lake shore and wherever, as a *Record* writer puts it, there was place to dig a hole. Although neither the present, nor even the next generation will see St. John's surrounded by such a forest as it had twenty years ago, the local arboriculturists have perpetuated their memories in a delightful way.

A prominent feature of the year was the revival of sports and the organization of the St. John's Athletic association on a grander scale than ever. Under the auspices of the association, baseball and football teams were trained, games scheduled and sporting goods furnished. The fates and fortunes of the association will be narrated in a later chapter.

Closing exercises were held June 22. The degree of Ph. B. was conferred on two candidates; that of M. A. on 41. On the rolls were the names of 226 students — 37

seminarians and 189 in all other departments. Eight medals were awarded. The catalogue was larger than that of any preceding year and was adorned with twelve half-tone engravings. A change was introduced in the naming of the classes of the classical course: they were now called, beginning with the lowest, the First, Second, and Third Academic, and the Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior and Senior class. In the schedule for the Scientific course, the first two years are identical with the first and second Academic, the following five are independent. The class of 1900 signalized itself by adopting college colors — blue and cardinal — and a college yell. July 18 and 19th witnessed an enthusiastic assembly of the Alumni, at which the various branches were well represented.

1900-1901

During vacation the Rt. Rev. President departed for Europe and after visiting the principal cities and Benedictine monasteries of the Continent, attended the consecration of the church of San Anselmo, connected with the Benedictine university of the same name, in Rome, on Nov. 11. He returned to St. John's December 16th.

The first class of the twentieth century sat down to its tasks promptly, resolved to set a pace for the following ninety-nine classes of the new age. A biological laboratory was fitted up in the first floor and classes in botany and zoology were organized.

On October 5 the students met in the Assembly Hall to celebrate the namesday of their Rev. Director, P. Bruno. Music and addresses filled out a pleasant hour, and P. Bruno was made the recipient of several useful presents as souvenirs of the occasion. This may be a slight incident to commemorate; yet the event stands to the credit of the class of '01, as demonstrating their respect for their superior.

As a pleasant close of the century, the Alexian L. A.

presented the stirring drama "Pizarro" on December 20th. So well was the play received, that the members accepted an invitation of Mr. Davidson, manager of the St. Cloud Opera House, to perform it in that city on January 16th following. The press notices were exceedingly complimentary.

An event, the first of its kind at the institution and one which turned out to be a veritable ovation, was the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the priesthood of P. Francis Mershman, the senior professor at the institution, on January 9, 1901. On January 1st, P. Francis had celebrated the anniversary at Luxemburg, Stearns Co., where he had offered the Holy Sacrifice for the first time twenty five years before. The seminarians at St. John's felt that they could not permit the occasion to pass without a demonstration, for P. Francis had been a teacher in the seminary ever since 1876. On the evening of the 9th, an entertainment was given by the seminarians assisted by the musical organizations of the college. Bishop Trobec and a number of the secular and regular clergy of the diocese and from neighboring States were present. Addresses were made in German, English and Latin, and a valuable keepsake was presented the Rev. Jubilarian. P. Francis' name occurs in the list of the faculty as a professor since 1869. The snows of age are upon him now, but his cheerful disposition carries him triumphantly through the wear and strain of an educator's life.

Washington's Birthday saw the *debut* of the newly organized St. John's U. Dramatic Association in that fascinating comedy, "The Old Captain's Idea, or the Living Statue."

Early in the year the public was informed that the faculty contemplated building a gymnasium and a library in the near future, and before many moons elapsed, the first important steps had been taken to realize the idea. Mr. C. R. Aldrich, the Minneapolis architect, was

entrusted with the task of drawing plans for both buildings. Work at excavation for the library building was begun April 12th and within a month the foundation walls were completed. The masons at once were set to work on the foundation for the gymnasium, which stands a very short distance to the northwest of the buildings, while the library is located off the southwest corner of the middle building. The contract for erection of the library was let to Mr. J. Heimann of St. Cloud for \$13,100. By the end of the schoolyear both buildings were steadily progressing.

On June 20th, commencement exercises were held. 8 medals were awarded: the degree of B. A. was conferred on 4 graduates in the classical course and that of M. A. on 41 graduates of the commercial course. The total number of students enrolled was 243 — 39 seminarians and 204 other students. "With the martial sounds of a drum and a fife" the outgoing class marched to the railway station with waving banners and streamers in College colors. The coaches placed at the disposal of the students, and even the locomotive, were decorated with the colors and so the first class of the twentieth century rushed out gleefully, hopefully into the broad field of action.

Four weeks later, July 17th, P. Norbert Hofbauer, whose name is familiar to many classes of students, closed his eyes in death. He had come to St. John's as a slip of a boy in 1867; he had no wealth beyond a few musical instruments and exceptionally brilliant talents, not only for music, but for almost every other subject. In 1873 he entered the Order, in 1877 he was ordained a priest: from 1877-79 he was sub-prior and from 1879-89 prior in the monastery. He organized the commercial college in 1877 and was its principal for many years. In the 80's he organized the orchestra and was its director to within a short time before his death. A very brief illness preceded his death, which by reason of its comparative suddenness, came as a powerful shock to his many pupils and friends.

1901-1902

In consequence of the removal of the Collegeville station building by the Great Northern railway company, the authorities of the institution were compelled to erect near the station some kind of shelter for students and visitors to St. John's. A spacious two-story frame building was erected to accommodate the station agent, Mr. A. J. Kugler, and his family, as well as the postoffice and express and ticket office.

Hitherto the duties of a chaplain had been divided between the Director of the College and the Director of the Sodality; it was now deemed expedient that the work be confided to one person and P. Bernard Kevenhorster, who had been appointed Director of the Sodality became the first official Chaplain of the students, and holds the position at the present time.

Failing health induced P. John Katzner, the director of the musical department, to retire from active college work and take medical treatment. He has not regained his original health and vigor, nor taken up college work since that time, but devotes himself to pomology and tree-culture, in both of which lines he has been very successful. His apple orchard and tree plantation are sights worth seeing. Some of the results of his experience have been communicated to horticultural journals. He is at present one of the vice-presidents of the Minnesota Horticulture Society. His successor in the direction of the musical department was P. Edmund Basel.

P. Ulric Scheffold, for four years Principal of the Commercial Department, resigned that position to go to Washington and help at building up St. Martin's College. He left St. John's just before the opening of the school term, and at once entered upon his duties in the West. At present he presides over a pastoral charge in Seattle, Wash. At St. John's he was succeeded in the position of Principal by P. Kilian Heid.

The *Record* in October 1901 chronicles the fact that Mr. Rupp was erecting a general store within a stone's-throw from the cemetery. Since Mr. Broker's discontinuance of the store at Collegeville years ago, there had been no store in the vicinity.

When the rugged season set in, the new gymnasium, although not finished in the interior, was opened for use. "The new gymnasium", says the *Record* in November 1901, "presents a castle-like appearance of great symmetry and beauty. It is constructed of the best quality of Menominee pressed brick upon a massive granite foundation. The extreme length and breadth of the building are 120 and 93 feet respectively. The total height from the ground to the top of the 16 ft. flagstaff is 67 ft. The main building (63X114ft) is divided into two large halls. The one to the south is 30 ft wide, 60 ft. long and 22 ft. high; it will serve as a gymnasium and recreation room for the smaller boys. The larger hall is 60X80 ft. on the ground and 22 ft. high, with an elevated track running around the entire hall at an elevation of 9 ft. The room will be used by the larger students and will afford ample space for gymnastics and athletics. Being entirely free from pillars and other obstructions, it is an ideal place for hand-ball, basket-ball, indoor base-ball, tennis and other games, the running track serving admirably as a grand stand to accommodate the spectators. The two large halls of the main building are separated by a solid brick wall, so constructed that, in case the number of students will greatly increase, it can be removed without impairing the strength of the building in the least, thus providing an immense track-hall 60X110 ft. and 22ft. from floor to ceiling. Nearest the (main) entrance, is the office of the physical director, whilst to the left a winding stairway ascends to the upper floor, in the circular tower. On the south side of the main passage are the bath and toilet-rooms. A large basement 20X90 ft. in dimensions, under the front portion of the

building, will accommodate two bowling alleys. The second floor of the front contains a billiard room, 18X25 ft. in dimensions, from which access is gained to the running track in the main hall." The entire building is heated from the central steam plant and lighted by electricity. Next in order was the appropriate equipment of the gymnasium and the installation of a physical trainer.

On the evening of St. Cecilia's day and of Thanksgiving the faculty and students were regaled by musical treats.

During the Christmas holidays the abbey library, the museum, musical department and photograph gallery were moved from their old-quarters to the new library building.

The latter is a three-story, fire-proof structure, 52X88ft. on the ground floor is the abbey library, which now contains about 21000 volumes; on the second floor is the museum with office and storeroom. On the third floor are the photograph gallery and twelve music rooms, each furnished with either a piano or an organ. The space vacated in the college by the removal of the music rooms to the new building was utilized for class rooms.

Again the work of the class-room was crippled by the prevalence of sickness, so that not even a celebration of Washington's Birthday could be held. The buildings were under quarantine for a short time, and no case proved fatal.

In spring the outfit for the gymnasium arrived and the resources for exercise and amusement increased by the construction of a brick hand-ball alley at the northern extremity of the campus, near the tennis court.

P. Bruno found time amid his varied duties to promote fish-culture. It was through his efforts the institution obtained exclusive fishery rights in St. John's Lake, and in course of the summer the State fish commission placed a considerable number of wall-eyed pike in the lake. At the same time a trout pond was constructed near the Watab for raising that excellent variety of fish. The work has grown considerably in dimensions and is now in charge of



LIBRARY BUILDING

P. Bruno's brother, P. Hilary Doerfler.

At the commencement exercises June 20th the degree of B. A. was conferred on two candidates and that of M. A. on 40 graduates. Seven medals were awarded. The total enrollment for the year was 331, being the largest number hitherto enrolled. Of these, 46 were seminarians and 285 in all other courses. The great leap in numbers is partly due to the establishment of a Winter School in 1901. This department was instituted for the benefit of young men whose circumstances did not permit them to attend school, except during the winter months. By way of an inducement, the terms were fixed for such students at \$90. to cover tuition and board from November 4th to March 25th.

1902-1903

After three years of meritorious work P. Bruno laid down the burdens of his office and became librarian of the abbey. He subsequently became instrumental in organizing the German Catholic colony in the valley of the Saskatchewan, Canada; in 1905 left St. John's to assume editorial charge of the "St. Peters Bote," the organ of the colony, and since 1906 has been canonical Prior of St. Peter's Monastery, Muenster, Sask. His successor in the office of Director was P. Leonard Kapsner, who for two years previous had been Treasurer of the University, and disciplinarian.

During vacation a campus had been graded for the Juniors north of the buildings, thus making it possible to separate the older from the younger students more effectually during recreation time. Part of the third floor of the college buildings was converted into laboratories and lecture rooms for the departments of physics and chemistry, and the room formerly used as a chemical laboratory was turned over to the class in mechanical drawing.

On October 4th occurred the death of P. Melchior Bahner. Born in St. Cloud, Minn., Dec. 9. 1870, he entered

St. John's in 1883, made vows as a Benedictine Aug. 30. 1890, and was ordained April 25, 1894. Upon the advice of his physician, he went to the Bahama islands in 1892 and after his ordination, assisted in the mission at Nassau. Early in the present year he felt that his earthly course was run and begged to be permitted to return to Minnesota. He did not resume active work but continued steadily declining in health, until death released him from his sufferings at the age of not quite thirty-two years.

For Thanksgiving day the St. John's U. Dramatic Association prepared a catching German comedy "Rinaldo Rinaldini," and at the Yule-tide entertainment they performed "Major Andre," a tragedy. On February 1st and on Washington's Birthday the musical organizations appeared in concerts.

After gracing the landscape for thirty long years, the romantic little chapel on the island fell a prey to flames on April 17. 1903. It had been built by students and clerics in 1872 and was much admired by all who saw its red walls and white spire gleam though its rich setting of forest.

It was a great year for athletics; the pages of the *Record* fairly bristle with glowing reports of victories along every line of effort. One event was well calculated to stir up a more general interest in physical development, a feature in education that is too generally disregarded. It was the Field Day held May 27th, the first event of its kind in our history. On the programme were a 50 yard dash, 100 yard dash, running broad jump, shot put, discuss throwing, half-mile relay race, not to forget the sack-race.

On Commencement day, June 19th, the degree of Bachelor of Science was conferred on one candidate and the degree of M. A. on 27 graduates of the Commercial course. The usual exercises were diversified by an address by Mr. William Markoe, '69, a zealous worker in the interests of the International Truth Society. Seven medals were awarded.

During the year 337 students were enrolled — 39 seminarians and 298 in all other departments.

1903-04

The staff of professors was increased by the return of P. Alcuin Deutsch from Rome, where he had spent six years in study at San Anselmo, graduating with the title of Doctor of Philosophy this year. He was at once appointed professor of philosophy and is active in that capacity to this day.

Although the gymnasium and outfit were at hand for some time, physical training had not been organized on a systematic basis. In fall of this year (1903) a special instructor in this line of work was secured in Mr. Peter Boquel, of South Bethlehem, Pa. As a first venture he was engaged to teach from October 1 to April 1, covering the period when outdoor exercises are at a minimum and when the continual indoor life is most apt to tell upon the physical health of the student. The trainer, besides conducting the regular culture classes, voluntarily acted as coach for the athletic teams.

During October Mr. J. W. Arctander spent several days at the institution and created two pleasant evenings for the students by illustrated lectures on Alaska, its history, resources, attractions and future. His glowing accounts were a revelation to those who imagined that the North was synonymous with ice and death.

The annual Retreat in the Seminary was conducted by Rev. H. J. Untraut, of the diocese of La Crosse from February 23 to 26.

During the year the several organizations found time to prepare programmes for the chief festival occasions. On Thanksgiving day an entertainment was given by the musical organizations, the only specialty introduced being an exhibition of Indian club swinging. On December 15th, the 25th anniversary of the Rt. Rev. Abbot's ordination, an entertainment complimentary to him was given

at which the S. J. U. Dramatic Association performed "Maurice, the Woodcutter". On December 22 there was a concert, with gymnastical and *legerdemain* performances by Mr. A. Moosbrugger, of St. Cloud. On March 4, the Dramatic Association presented "Handy Andy", on the 17th a small programme was executed. The last entertainment was on Memorial Day. On the latter also the Field Day exercises were held.

Although sickness was less prevalent than in preceding years, two cases proved fatal. The first was the case of Jos. Hall, of Manitowoc, Wis., who died November 20, 1903 after a brief and apparently not very serious illness; the second was Frank Fuessy, of Royalton, Minn., who succumbed to a severe siege of pneumonia on February 12, 1904. In both instances the remains were shipped to their homes for interment.

Three priests of the Order and former professors closed their earthly career during this schoolyear. P. Timothy Vaeth, born in Baltimore, Md. July 14. 1854, professed as a Benedictine in 1882, ordained July 26, 1885, and pastor successively at Luxemburg, St. Joseph, Duluth, New Munich and East Minneapolis, where he was stationed since 1894, died November 4, 1903. He was followed on March 11, 1904 by P. Pancratius Maehren, born in Conzen, near Cologne, Germany May 24, 1846, professed 1871, ordained Sept. 21, 1874. He was the first professor of natural sciences at St. John's and later labored in pastoral charges at Minneapolis, Meire Grove, Richmond, Pierz, Freeport and Farming. From September 1893 to April 1895 he was prior at the abbey. He died at Farming, his last station. On May 20, 1904 followed P. Joseph Vill, born January 8, 1835 in Germany, professed 1862, ordained February 2, 1867. He labored as missionary in many of the missions of Stearns county and towards the end of his life lived in retirement as chaplain at several charitable institutions.

The continual difficulty of procuring suitable male hands to conduct the kitchen led to the introduction of a number of Sisters of the Presentation from France in May 1904. A separate residence was built for them west of the library building.

On June 5th the members of the A. L. A. held a public debate on the subject: Resolved that the adjudication of disputes between employers and employes should be made part of the administration of justice.

A distinguishing feature of the commencement exercises on June 23, was an address by the Rev. L. J. Vaughan, of Altoona, Wis. On this occasion 7 medals were awarded; the degree of Master of Arts was conferred on one candidate; that of Ph. B. on one; that of A. B. on 2; that of B. S. on 3; and that of M. A. on 21. Diplomas in Shorthand and Typewriting were conferred on 3 graduates. On the rolls appear the names of 310 students — 32 seminarians and 278 in all other departments.

On June 29 — after the class of '04 had adjourned — the public celebration of the silver jubilee of the Rt. Rev. Abbot's ordination was celebrated; at the same time a great meeting of the Alumni was held.

1904-05

After an absence of five years in Rome, where he had filled responsible positions in the Greek College, P. Placidus Wingerter returned to St. John's and resumed his labors as professor of Sacred Scripture and languages. During his sojourn abroad he secured many valuable books for the faculty's library.

P. Hugo Tell, who received a pastoral appointment, was succeeded as Treasurer of the college by P. Richard Simmer. For the gymnasium the services of Mr. A. Moosbrugger of St. Cloud, were secured for this year.

No changes of importance had been made in the curriculum of studies, but special efforts had been made to render the scientific course more efficient and attractive.

Pleasant and memorable days of the year were November 6th, the Rev. Director's namesday; Thanksgiving Day, on which "The Proscribed Heir" was produced; Yule Tide entertainment, at which the German comical play "Der gescheiteste Schwabenstreich" proved the irresistible attraction; Washington's Birthday; March 7th, when the play "Falsely Accused" was performed; the concert on April 4th; and finally that on June 13 in honor of the newly ordained disciplinarians, Fathers Pius and Paul.

The annual Retreat in the seminary was conducted from Feb. 27 to March 3 by P. William O. S. B. of St. Cloud.

On October 27th, 1904, P. Alphonse Kuisle died at the abbey. Born in the diocese of Augsburg, Bavaria, Oct. 15, 1839, professed as a Benedictine 1869, ordained December 22, 1872, he was pastor at St. Cloud, Richmond, Minneapolis, Stillwater and of Collegeville congregation (since 1895). Since 1899 he had also been subprior of the abbey.—On February 27, 1905 P. Theodore Kevenhoester died at Nassau, Bahama Islands. He was a brother of P. Bernard, rector of the Seminary, and born in Alten-Essen, Prussia, April 8, 1877. He made profession as a Benedictine August 28, 1897 and was ordained June 15, 1902. Since 1897 he was a professor and disciplinarian in the commercial department. A few months after his ordination his health failed; upon the advice of physicians he repaired to Colorado, but returned to Minnesota in the summer of 1903. In October of that year he left for the Bahamas, never more to return alive. He spent the rest of his days in missionary work at Nassau and the news of his death caused deep regret. His remains were escorted to St. John's by his brother, P. Bernard, and interred on March 7th.

On March 28 and April 5 Mr. Joseph B. Himsl, '88, county attorney of Stearns County, lectured before the Commercial class on commercial papers and contracts.

This was the second instance of a former alumnus ascending the lecture platform here.

Commencement day exercises were held June 21. The degree of A. M. was conferred on one graduate — the late Rev. Nicholas Niedere of Hastings; that of Ph. B. on 2; that of A. B. on one; that of M. A. on 20, and Shorthand Certificates on one. 7 medals were awarded. The entire number of students enrolled was 306 — 34 seminarians and 272 in all other departments.

During vacation the Rev. Director, P. Leonard Kapsner, in consideration of the unsatisfactory state of his health, requested his superiors to relieve him from duty in the position he had held for three years. He continued in active service as a professor during part of the next school-year, but in fall 1906 went to the Pacific slope to assist at St. Martin's College. He was succeeded as Director at St. John's by P. Albert Erkens, the present incumbent.

P. Albert is a native of Minnesota, being born in Jordan October 2, 1874. He pursued his course of classical studies at Teutopolis, Ill., entered the Benedictine Order at St. John's in 1896 and was ordained June 11, 1901. He has been active as a professor since 1896 and brought the shorthand and typewriting sections into prominence and efficiency.

On August 5th, P. Simplicius Wimmer died at the abbey after a long illness. He was born in Bavaria, December 10, 1844, professed 1869, ordained September 29, 1872. He was one of the founders of the St. Boniface Literary Association. During his long career he attended many of the missions in the vicinity, for a number of years was professor of moral theology in the seminary, and for a short time was stationed in New York city.

1905-06

During vacation one half of the basement in the north wing was fitted up as a bathroom with ten showerbaths

housed in marble stalls. This improvement, together with the new lavatories, which are in every way abreast of the times, contributes to the sanitation of the buildings.

In September P. Bede Mayenberger was sent to Rome for a course of higher studies at San Anselmo. He is the fourth representative of St. John's at that institution.

For this schoolyear Mr. Harry A. Comeau, of New London, Conn., was secured as instructor in physical culture. He was well qualified for his line of work, having served his apprenticeship under skilled masters in the East. To the usual exercises he added, for such students as chose to avail themselves of the opportunity, lessons in fencing, boxing, wrestling, and athletics. He also had a set of physical examination instruments installed to examine and record the physical progress of his pupils.

Besides the usual monthly notes in deportment and application, monthly examinations and class notes were introduced. These notes were handed to the Rev. Director who supplied copies of them to parents or guardians, desirous of being informed of the pupil's progress. It is a timely provision and makes for thoroughness, at the same time offering a good opportunity for co-operation between the faculty and parents.

In the evening of September 21st, Gen. C. C. Andrews, of St. Paul, Chief Fire Warden of the State of Minnesota and a vigorous champion of the cause of forestry, delivered an illustrated lecture on American and foreign forests and forestry, and made an earnest plea for the preservation of what is still left of woods.

On October 14 a reception was held for the Rt. Rev. Albert Pascal, vicar apostolic of Saskatchewan, who paid his first visit to the abbey, accompanied by the Prior of St. Peter's, Canada, Rt. Rev. Alfred, O. S. B. Speeches and music filled the evening; the good bishop spoke very entertainingly of conditions in the North and of his labors in the Arctic circle.

Four months later another prelate was accorded an enthusiastic reception. Bishop Augustine Schinner of the newly erected diocese of Superior was introduced by Bishop Trobec, of St. Cloud. In the forenoon of February 16th an entertainment was improvised for the distinguished visitor, at which he addressed the students in a vigorous and timely speech.

The lecture course was supplied by Fathers Alcuin and Anselm; the former delivered several illustrated lectures on Italy, the latter on astronomy. For these lectures an improved instrument, the reflectoscope, was purchased. It may be used for the purpose of projecting lantern slides in the ordinary way, but is especially valuable for reflecting colored prints and opaque objects.

In the life of the student, joys and sorrows alternate as well as they do in the rest of the world. The saddest feature of this year was the death of Eugene Whalen on January 18, 1906, after a short illness of tubercular meningitis. His sorrowing parents were present at his bedside when he surrendered his soul into the hands of his Creator.

The musical department suffered a loss — we hope, only temporarily — by the departure of P. Edmund Basel from Asheville, N. C. early in March. He was afflicted with some throat trouble, found little or no relief in special treatment, and was advised to seek a milder climate. Last summer he left Asheville for Nassau, Bahama Islands, where he is at present.

The annual Retreat for the Seminarians was conducted from March 28 to 31 by the Rt. Rev. Abbot.

The first all-around Athletic Meet and Gymnastic Entertainment, the first of its kind given here, was held in the gymnasium in the afternoon of November 16, 1905. All the participants were Junior students. A similar event, in which all the advanced classes took part, formed part of the delights of Thanksgiving day.

The literary and musical societies entertained on Thanksgiving, by performing "The Malediction", a drama in 3 acts; on December 21, there was a concert at which Prof. Magnus G. Schutz, '85 who had just left the far West to make his abode in the East, volunteered to sing some of his best songs; on Washington's Birthday the farce "Freedom of the Press" was presented; on March 7, the members of the Seminary gave a polyglot and musical entertainment; speeches and declamations were delivered in nine languages, six of which are taught at the institution; on St. Boniface day, June 5, the dramatic section of the St. Boniface L. A. presented "Oblivio".

On May 17, the venerable Father Cornelius Wittmann celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination. Although his sight was impaired, he officiated at the solemn High Mass, at which Bishop Trobec, of St. Cloud, delivered an elaborate discourse on the labors of the Benedictines in Minnesota and of the share P. Cornelius had in the work. In the evening the dramatic association presented the historical drama "Alexander III."

Much interest centered in the exercises of Field Day, May 30. It was an ideal day in every respect and many friends of outdoor sport from neighboring places had come to witness the events. The exercises were conducted on the college campus. 12 medals, gifts of alumni and friends of the institution, were awarded the winners in the several contests.

Commencement exercises were held on June 21. An address to the graduates was delivered by Mr. Wm. F. Markoe, '70, on "The Absolute Necessity of Christian Education for the Preservation of the Nation", a discourse as striking and convincing as it was interesting. 8 medals were awarded. The degree of A. B. was conferred on two candidates; that of M. A. on 30 and Amanuensis Certificates in Shorthand on three. Total enrollment: 314 — of

which number 36 were seminarians and 278 in all other departments.

1906-07

At last the jubilee year has dawned: the fiftieth school-year opened and as these lines go to print is still in progress. By way of preparation for a new era, new floors were laid throughout the greater part of the college buildings: the dining room received a ceiling of pressed steel and new electroliers.

P. Kilian Heid assumed direction of the orchestra, and P. Isidor Siegler took charge of the violin class, in view of the fact that P. Edmund Basel was still abroad under medical treatment.

An important change was made in the Commercial course. It was observed that students considered themselves fully equipped for commercial life when they had learned a system of bookkeeping. They had gone forth but soon discovered that they lacked essentials and that without an ordinary fundamental education, the knowledge of bookkeeping was a pure delusion and a snare. Hence the course was divided into two grades, the first of which, as the catalogue reads, "comprises those studies that compose the foundation for a profitable pursuit of the technical subjects". For advancement to the second grade a written examination is required. This may oblige the student to remain longer at school than under the older system, but it ensures a better start and gives less occasion for dissatisfaction and regret.

On October 23, Mr. Warren Upham, secretary of the Minnesota State Historical Society, delivered a scholarly lecture on "The First White Men in Minnesota."

According to custom the Rev. Director's namesday, November 15, was celebrated as a holiday. In the evening an entertainment was furnished by the college organizations. A magnificent leather armchair was presented the Rev. Director as a remembrance of that pleasant occasion.

A few days later P. Richard Simmer, chief disciplinarian of the Junior hall and Treasurer of the institution, left for a milder climate upon advice of physicians. He spent a part of the winter in Alabama, but intends to return before the end of the present term. The duties of Treasurer were assumed by P. Pius Meinz.

Besides the lecture already mentioned there were three series during the winter: five by P. Alexius Hoffmann on North America, South America and the Insular Dependencies of the United States: two by P. Anselm on Glacial Lake Agassiz, and two by P. Bernard Kevenhoerster on Yellowstone Park. Most of the slides used for illustrating these lecturers were made by the home photographic artist, P. Fridolin Tembreull.

For Thanksgiving day "The Merchant of Venice", adapted, was prepared, and rendered with exceptional success. It was followed up at the Yuletide entertainment by a performance of "The Last of the Narragansetts".

During the Christmas holidays, the students whose circumstances did not permit them to enjoy the sweets of vacation under their paternal roof-tree improvised an entertainment under the auspices of the "Hard Luck Club".

This year, too, the angel of death claimed a victim. Leo J. Heck left college in good health to spend the Christmas holidays at his home in St. Paul. Towards the end of the holidays he was prostrated with typhoid fever and died January 20. His class-mates conveyed their condolence to his bereaved parents in the shape of a beautiful floral tribute and a handsomely executed set of resolutions.

Father John Katzner celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination on February 5, and although "there was none of the glamour and external signs of joy which usually surround such an occasion", he received numerous felicitations from those of his friends who had known him in the days of his energetic activity as a professor of music.

An unusually severe winter with much snow defeated all efforts at outdoor sport beyond a stroll for a whiff of fresh air; still indoor amusements and exercises were the order of the day without intermission. A specimen of the work accomplished in the gymnasium was given on the evening of February 12 at a Gymnastic Entertainment in the assembly hall. The programme was executed by the body of student instructors under direction of Mr. H. A. Comeau.

On the evening of Washington's birthday an English sketch "The Hypochondriac" and a German farce "Der Dumme August" furnished an hour of pleasure. As at all functions of this kind, the orchestra filled the intervals with the best music at its disposal. On St. Benedict's day the dramatic association presented Bulwer-Lytton's "Cardinal Richelieu," a drama in five acts.

The annalist has thus reached the present. Three months of the schoolyear remain, but it will scarcely be difficult to forecast their history. The attendance during the year was 303 — of these 32 seminarians and 271 in all other departments. Minnesota furnishes the bulk of students — 219; next follows Wisconsin with 26, North Dakota, 21; Iowa, 14; South Dakota, 10; New York, Montana and Canada, each 3; Michigan, Illinois, Louisiana and the Bahama Islands, each, 1. Although the total enrollment falls slightly short of last year, the average attendance has probably the best of any year.

CHAPTER VI.

COLLEGE ORGANIZATIONS.

This sketch would be incomplete without some mention of the various organizations which, if not parts of the educational curriculum, have in no small measure contributed to elevate the student body by cherishing the love of religion, by extending the knowledge obtained in the classroom, by physical exercises calculated to preserve that vigor of body which is so important during the years of study. Many a student fondly remembers the hours devoted to this kind of work and will no doubt be proud to learn that most of the organizations have continued to live and flourish down to the present hour. Many an organization sprouted up and lived for a short spell — it filled the need of the hour and passed away when its task was done or taken over by a kindred society. Membership on these organizations has always been voluntary; at the head of each is a chief officer appointed by the President of the institution, and each is governed by a code of laws formed by the organizations themselves.

I. RELIGIOUS.

1. *The Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, the oldest organization of a religious character in the college, was organized on the feast of St. Aloysius, June 21. 1870. "For some time past," writes a correspondent of *Der*

Wanderer of that month "a number of students have been in the habit of meeting in the chapel during recreation time to recite the Rosary. Finally, they took steps to found a society: P. Alexius Edelbrock was elected director and Fr. Simplicius Wimmer prefect. It was resolved to petition for aggregation to the principal Sodality which has its seat in Rome, where it was organized in 1563. The General of the Society of Jesus is empowered to aggregate other societies. P. Alexius sent a petition to Rev. P. Tschieder, S. J., of St. Louis, Mo., through whose kind offices the necessary papers were secured from Rome. On the foundation day all the members — at present 23 — received the Sacraments, and during Mass which was said for them by the Rev. Director of the Sodality, they pronounced the formula of consecration by which they devoted themselves in a special manner to the service of Our Lady."

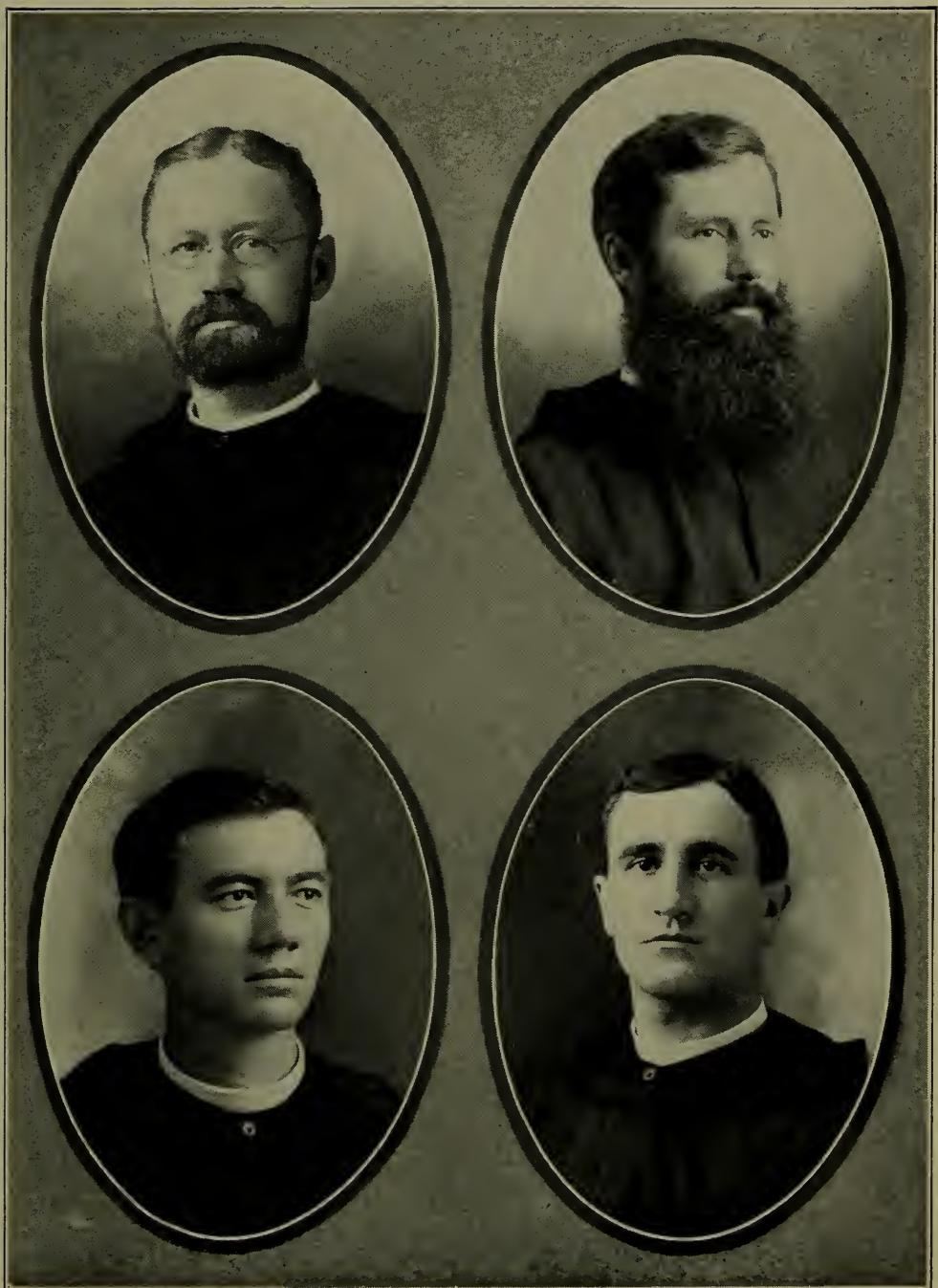
The following were the original officers: Director, P. Alexius Edelbrock; prefect, Joseph Leuthard; secretary, Nicholas Steil; censors, John Schulte and J. Eha. P. Alexius filled the office of director till 1877; his successors were P. Francis Mershman, 1877-83; P. Alfred Mayer, 1883-87 P. Alexius Hoffmann, 1887-90; P. Francis Mershman, 1890-95; P. Michael Ott, 1895-1901. The present director is P. Bernard Kevenhoerster, since 1901.

Every day the members perform some devotional service in common. Originally it was customary to recite the Rosary publicly on Sundays: later the recitation of the Little Office of the Immaculate Conception on Saturdays was introduced, and this practice continues to the present time. The six Aloysian Sundays are observed by the majority of the members every year. Both the living and the dead share in the spiritual benefits of the Sodality. Every day prayers are said for them in the college chapel and, in case the Director is informed of the death of a member, a Requiem is sung for the repose of his soul.

As a successful means of fostering piety and of preserving young students from the pernicious influence of bad literature the Sodality organized a circulating library of several hundred volumes, books by reliable Catholic authors. In consideration of a moderate annual fee to cover necessary expenses and add to the stock of books on hand, members were permitted to use the library. Subsequently it was merged with the libraries of the two literary society (St. Boniface and St. Thomas) to form what is now the Students' Library. At present it contains about 2700 volumes which are accessible in the students' reading room.

A handsomely engraved certificate issued on the day of admission to the Sodality, reminds the members of the devout promise they made at college. Each member also receives a blue silk badge which is worn at all public functions of the Sodality.

2. Second in order of time is the *St. Benedict's Altar Boys Association*, which, as its name indicates, has for its worthy object the efficient training of boys to serve with propriety in the sanctuary. In the small chapel which was frequented by the students before 1882 there was no room for magnificent ritual. In 1882, Fr. Chrysostom Schreiner, then official master of ceremonies of the abbey, organized the above named association with a membership of 24, the first student officials being Jos. Wolf, assistant, and Fred. W. Faber, secretary. Fr. Chrysostom's successor in office were Frs. Meinrad Rettenmaier, Gerard Spielman, Corbinian Hermanutz, Demetrius Juenemann, Anselm Bartholmy, Gabriel Roerig, Fidelis Lucking and Matthew Britt. The latter, who presided from 1896-1900, had the society duly affiliated to the *St. John Berchmans Sanctuary Society* in January 1897, and the local organization exists by that name to this day. Fr. Matthew also wrote, for the benefit of the boys in his charge a "Ceremonial for Altar Boys" printed by the *Record* in 1899, which has since gained popularity and



REV. ALEXIUS HOFFMANN, O. S. B.
REV. LEONARD KAPSNER, O. S. B.

REV. BRUNO DOERFLER, O. S. B.
REV. ALBERT ERKENS, O. S. B.

has appeared in a second edition. His successors in office were Frs. Magnus Hermanutz, P. Alcuin Deutsch, P. Paul Neussendorfer. The present director is Fr. Hildebrand Eickhoff. The society has a small library of works referring to liturgical matters.

3. A local center of the League of the Sacred Heart, Apostleship of Prayer, was organized in October 1896, and duly affiliated. It began with a very encouraging membership and has always been generously patronized. The direction is retained by the Rt. Rev. President; the secretaries in immediate charge of the work of the League since its inception having been P. Alexius Hoffmann; P. Bruno Doerfler and — since 1902 — P. Bernard Kevenhoerster.

II. LITERARY.

1. The *Grace Literary Association* was organized in the year 1869 by the senior students for the purpose of acquiring mastery of the English language, especially in oratory and debate. It took its name in honor of the late Bishop Thomas L. Grace of St. Paul, one of the patrons of the institution. Among its charter members and chief promoters were Messrs. Jos. B. Cotter and J. McGlone. In 1875 the name was changed for that of the

St. Thomas Literary Association; under this name it continued to exist till 1883, then slumbered for two years, was revived in 1885 and quietly passed out of existence in 1887, leaving the field to the Alexian L. A. (see below.) Its presidents from the beginning were J. B. Cotter, M. T. Ryan, J. W. Nealis, P. Francis Mershman, 1871-78, P. Edward Ginther, P. Alfred Mayer and P. Chrysostom Schreiner. The members supported a library which was merged with that of the Sodality in 1883.

2. The *St. Boniface Literary Association* was organized January 13, 1870 by the German students for the cultivation of the German language and literature. Its motto

Virtuti et Musis, was adopted upon the motion of Fr. Bernard Locnikar, one of the first and most active members. The first officers were; president, Fr. Boniface Moll; vice-pres., Fr. Simplicius Wimmer; secretary, Bernard Buenkers; censors (critics), Fr. Bernard Locnikar and Joseph Leuthard. The original membership was 21. At the time of its organization the society adopted a constitution which was changed in 1892. In March 1870 a library of choice German books was opened, and continued to be operated by the society until 1883 when it was united with the Sodality library. From 1870-1878 the members issued a manuscript monthly which bore the title of "Monats-schrift des St. Bonifacius Literar Vereins". The publication appeared every month during the scholastic year and always contained excellent articles. As only one copy was issued and passed from hand to hand, it suffered slightly. The file is carefully preserved in the abbey library as one of the monuments of earnest endeavor in the first quarter of the history of the institution. On March 7. 1895 the society celebrated the silver jubilee of its foundation. It has had the following presidents: Fr. Boniface Moll, P. Bernard Locnikar, P. Augustine Brockmeier, P. Simplicius Wimmer, P. Ludger Ehrens, P. Chrysostom Schreiner, P. Stephen Koefler, P. Gerard Spielmann, P. Placidus Wingerter, P. Anselm Ortmann, P. Athanasius Meyer, and P. Alcuin Deutsch.

3. The *St. Aloysius Literary Society* was organized in 1877 by the students of the Junior hall for practice in declamation and debate. Like many other youthful beings it wilted and died after one brief year of life.

4. The *Alexian Association* named in honor of the Rt. Rev. President of the institution, was organized by the professor of rhetoric, P. Xavier White in 1879, for the special benefit of the students attending the advanced English classes. Apart from several minor differences, this society covered the same ground as the St. Thomas

L. A. and the membership of both societies was practically the same. It flourished to the end of 1885 with its Rev. founder as its president. After two years of inactivity it was resuscitated as the *Alexian Literary Association*, and to its mast was pinned the venerable motto of the defunct St. Thomas L. A. "Nunquam retrorsum." P. Chrysostom Schreiner was its president till 1891, his successors were P. Alexius Hoffmann, P. Charles Cannon, P. Michael Ott, and P. Bernard Kevenhoerster.

In 1888 the publication of the *St. John's University Record* was begun under the auspices of its members. —The association also had a dramatic section since 1886.

5. The *Conference of St. Francis* was organized in 1879 among the seminarians; its members assembled weekly to discuss subjects pertaining to philosophy, ecclesiastical history, dogmatic and moral theology, and liturgy. Its president was the professor of theology, P. Francis Mershman. No mention is made of the Conference in catalogues after 1879.

6. Another literary society, that styled itself the *Philopolemic*, was organized in the seminary in 1888, but did not succeed in striking roots deep enough to secure permanence. In 1894 the *Concordia* association came into existence in the seminary, its general features being the same as those of the earlier organization. The members published a monthly which was multiplied by hectographic process. No mention is made of the *Concordia* in the catalogue of 1897 nor thereafter.

7. The *Thespian Club* was organized November 1891 and lived about five years. It was replaced in 1901 by *St. John's U. Dramatic Association*.

8. Two reading circles — the *St. Charles* and the *Irving* — flourished for some time during the final years of last century.

9. The newest arrival in the literary field is the *St. Thomas Aquinas Literary Association* organized in the

Seminary in 1904 by P. Bernard Kevenhoerster, who has been its president since that time. In the same year the *St. John's Seminary Reading Circle* was formed.

10. In fall 1906 the *Commercial Reading Club* was organized; it supports a reading room with about 40 papers and magazines and meets regularly for debates. Its moderator is P. Kilian Heid.

III. MUSICAL.

To what extent music was taught at *old St. John's* is rather difficult to determine at present: at all events a piano was purchased in 1862 and P. Wolfgang Northman, a skilful musician, gave music lessons. The only musical organization which can be traced down to 1868 is the brass band, or more properly the German Silver band, as the instruments were made of that metal. Under the direction of P. Wolfgang Northman the band, small as it was, enjoyed much popularity. He was succeeded by his brother, the late P. Ulric, who was also an accomplished musician and directed the Band till 1888, when P. John Katzner became leader. In 1877 its membership was 14. In 1882 a complete set of new brass instruments was purchased, gradually reed instruments were introduced. The largest membership late in the last century was 28. With the growth of the orchestra, the band by degrees was moved to second place and since 1900 has ceased to exist as a permanent organization.

The forerunners of the Orchestra were the Haydn String Quartette in 1877 and a quintette in 1885. Under the leadership of the late P. Norbert Hofbauer an orchestra of twelve pieces was organized for the Alumni reunion held in June 1886 and this organization survives to the present day, with a slight interruption in 1894. When P. Edmund succeeded P. Norbert as director in 1900, the membership was 20, a number which it still maintains. It has

a fairly large repertory, as it is called upon to assist at almost all public entertainments throughout the scholastic year.

From time to time other small instrumental organizations were formed which, however, lived too short a time to merit a detailed account.

No mention of singing societies is made in the catalogues before 1892, when a *Liederkranz* existed. Previous to that no fixed organization existed — for secular music. Glee clubs and quartettes were repeatedly formed, but none lived very long. Whenever songs were required for public occasions, the church choirs took the matter in hand. Since 1900 there have been several successful quartettes both in the collegiate and seminary departments under direction of P. Louis Traufer and Richard Simmer.

In the early days church music was much of the same character as was found in the churches of the country and the compositions of Lambilotte, Schmidt and Werner were in much demand. When the Cecilian reform reached the West in the early '70's it secured some patrons at St. John's. The choir composed of clerics and seminarians sang Cecilian music exclusively. Still the student choir adhered to the old school and it was only in the '90s that both Cecilian music and Gregorian chant were adopted as the correct forms of ecclesiastical chant, chiefly through the efforts of P. Stanislaus Preiser and the late P. Norbert Hofbauer. Since 1890 the students' choir has been directed successively by P. Stanislaus, P. Edmund Basel, P. Louis Traufer and P. Richard Simmer. The members are instructed in modern and choral notation and have, besides, two rehearsals every week. The organists are P. Innocent Gertken and Fr. Norbert Gertken.

IV. ATHLETIC.

One of the earliest forms of sport indulged in here was boating and fishing. Very naturally, for the country round

was covered with forests or stumps and in default of a campus the lake was resorted to. It would be a mistake to suppose that the alumni of that day yearned for anything more; national games were scarcely known. Boat clubs were formed by the students; they purchased a serviceable row-boat and kept it in repair from year to year until it fell to pieces. In the catalogues may be found the names of many of the old boats, the Germania, Little Fraud, Gem, Argo, Hiawatha etc. In 1886 the institution began to build the boats and nominal clubs were formed. After 1895 the clubs, too, disappeared and to this day no organization exists, a trifling fee being required of students who wish to use the boats on recreation days.

There is evidence that base ball was played as early as 1868. Mention of a ball team is made for the first time in the catalogue of 1874; P. Leo Winter was its president.

These clubs were re-organized every year and generally took a new name such as Invincibles, Athletics, Crusaders, Manhattans. Later on the inappropriateness of many of these names apparently struck the teams and they contented themselves with the technical designation of "nines."

Football was played after a free-for-all fashion, and generally on the ice, since the early '70's, and only since the beginning of the present century have the approved forms been cultivated by the Athletic Association. Lawn tennis and handball also have been in vogue since 1890. Bowling, too, has been a favorite sport. At present there is a double alley in the basement of the gymnasium, and a handball alley and tennis court near the campus.

Sports for the last seven years have been carried on under the auspices of the Athletic Association, which was founded 1900. Following is a record of the principal games played since the beginning of the present century, with scores:

1899-1900

BASEBALL:	S. J. U.	12	St. Cloud High School	11
	"	4	"	14

1900-1901

FOOTBALL:	S. J. U.	lost 2 games to the St. Cloud H. S.		
BASEBALL:	"	lost one to St. Cloud High,	9-4	
	"	won one from	"	16-8

1901-1902

FOOTBALL: S. J. U. won the collegiate championship of Minnesota.

Representative games:

S. J. U.	11	St. Cloud High	6
"	17	" Normal	6
"	11	" High	0
"	15	St. Thomas College	6
BASEBALL:	"	14	St. Cloud High
	"	5	" professionals

1902-1903

FOOTBALL:	S. J. U.	0	St. Cloud Normal	17
BASKETBALL:	"	17	Sauk Centre	25
	"	15	St. Cloud Normal	16
BASEBALL:	"	7	St. Cloud High	5
	"	3	Sauk Centre	1

1903-1904

FOOTBALL:	S. J. U.	5	St. Cloud Normal	0
	"	0	" High	12
	"	5	" Normal	17
BASKETBALL:	"	19	" "	11
	"	65	Melrose	13
	"	68	Sauk Centre	15
	"	21	Normals	11
BASEBALL:	"	11	St. Cloud High	5
	"	9	" "	1
	"	16	Little Falls	1

1904-1905

FOOTBALL:	"	46	St. Cloud High	0
	"	18	" Normal	0
	"	0	" "	26
BASKETBALL:	"	43	N. D. Agr. College	29
	"	42	Normals	5
	"	19	"	17
BASEBALL:	"	6	St. Cloud Bus. College	0
	"	7	Elk River	6
	"	24	St. Joe	4

1905-1906

FOOTBALL:	S. J. U.	6	St. Cloud Normal	5
BASKETBALL:	"	24	N. D. Agr. College	14
	"	33	Fargo Athletic	43
	"	22	N. D. Agr. College	29
	"	52	Mechanic Arts	20

1906-1907

FOOTBALL:	S. J. U.	6	Blaine H. S., Superior	17
	"	64	Mechanic Arts St. Paul	6
BASKETBALL:	won State intercollegiate championship.			
	S. J. U.	16	St. Thomas College	22
	"	61	Amateur Athletic, St. Paul	9
	"	40	St. Thomas College	21
	"	59	U. of Minn. Freshmen	11

In the inter-hall basket ball league the Elites won the silver cup from the Royalists by a score of 23-18. The cup was presented at the entertainment on the evening of March 21.

This record closes with Easter 1907.

V. ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

When the silver jubilee of the establishment of St. John's was celebrated in connection with the consecration of the new church on October 24, 1882, the alumni present

met on the day following the solemnities to organize an association for the perpetuation "of the bond of friendship formed in college days, to advance the welfare, spiritual and temporal, of its members and to further the interests of Alma Mater."

At the organizing meeting, the late P. Xavier White in the chair, the following officers were elected:

Honorary Pres.—Rt. Rev. Alexius Edelbrock, O. S. B.

President—Rev. Jos. B. Cotter.

Spiritual Director:—Rev. Xavier White O. S. B.

Recording Secretary:—Jos. M. Langan.

Corresponding Secretary:—Rev. E. J. Lawler.

Treasurer:—Alphonse Demeules.

A committee was appointed to frame a constitution and by-laws, with instructions to report at

The first regular meeting, June 26, 1883. The constitution and by-laws were adopted and ordered printed.

The second regular meeting was held June 22, 1886 in the present assembly hall, then still unfinished. The most delightful features of the gathering were the banquet and speeches.

The third meeting was held August 28, 1890 on the day following the installation of the late Abbot Bernard Locnikar. On this occasion Mr. M. Nugent, '81, was elected President.

Close upon the heels of this meeting followed the fourth, on July 21 and 22, 1891. To ensure a better attendance, local branches of the association had been organized during spring at St. Cloud, St. Paul and Minneapolis. Each branch sent a strong delegation. At the meeting Mr. L. J. Demeules, '70, was elected President, and Rev. A. Christie, Spiritual Director. Scarcely less enthusiastic was the gathering held July 12 and 13, 1892, at which also a new local branch, that of Duluth-West Superior was represented. Mr. L. J. Demeules was re-elected President of the Association.

On July 10, 1895, the day previous to the installation of Abbot Peter Engel the sixth re-union was held, at which Mr. G. Mitsch, Jr. of St. Paul was chosen President.

Five years elapsed before another meeting was held. The seventh reunion took place July 18 and 19, 1900, and in numbers outstripped any of the previous gatherings.

The eighth re-union took place on June 29, 1904; it coincided with the silver jubilee of Rt. Rev. Abbot Peter Engel's ordination. Again a new branch, that of Western Stearns County, was represented for the first time. On this occasion most of the exercises were conducted in the new gymnasium and the alumni had an opportunity to mark the progress of the institution since the primitive days and conditions of 1867. The officers elected in 1904 and holding office at the present time are:

President:—Charles F. Ladner, St. Cloud.

Vice Presidents (and Presidents of the respective local branches:) Wm. Hoy, Minneapolis; John Heider, Duluth; Rev. Leo Winter, Western Stearns Co.; John Venne, St. Paul; John A. Ahmann, St. Cloud.

Recording Secretary:—F. A. Gross, Minneapolis.

Treasurer:—Wm. Bohmer, Melrose.

Spiritual Director:—Rev. George Arctander.

It is expected that a large number of alumni will participate in the jubilee exercises toward the end of June of the present year, 1907, to mark the passing of the fiftieth milestone.

CHAPTER VII.

CONCLUSION.

After fifty years of patient work and struggle, the institution looks complacently over the work accomplished and hopefully into the future. The rewards of toil are visible on every hand. From a tiny frame building on the banks of the Mississippi it has grown into a vast edifice second to few, if any, in the State of Minnesota. However, it is not this material growth that must be considered a gauge of the success of the institution. For fifty years it has endeavored to meet the wants of the youth of this new region by affording them an opportunity of acquiring an education for secular pursuits as well as for the ministry. True to the intentions of its founders and the character of the men in whose hands its destinies rested, it has aimed to be a Catholic school in spirit and deed.

Today the work presided over by the faculty is very extensive and 34 professors and disciplinarians devote themselves to the task. A Preparatory course fits students for the Classical and Commercial course. A Classical Course of six years comprising the study of Religion, Latin, Greek, English, German, History, Geography both physical and political, Mathematics, and elective branches such as Physiology, Chemistry, Geology, Astronomy, Botany, Zoology and French, prepares the student for any of the learned professions. The Scientific course with the facilities for the study of Physics, Electricity, Biology and Astronomy, Drawing and kindred branches bears witness

to the fact that an effort is made to furnish advantageous opportunities for keeping in touch with the progress of the world in scientific matters. For almost thirty years a Commercial course has been connected with the college. Not least in importance is the Theological Seminary which if small in numbers, is efficient in work and has given the sacred ministry many members. The total attendance in all the courses in 1907, as has been stated above, was slightly in excess of 300. It is not expected that this figure will grow notably in the near future owing to the increasing number of educational institutions rising on all sides, still it is an encouraging number under the circumstances.

Our Alumni? For a half-century from year to year, some alumni went forth to take up arms in the wider field of action; what has become of them? The snows and infirmities of advancing years are upon some of them now, and many of them have laid down the arms of toil and rest in memory only. It will be impossible in the space of a few pages to recall all those of whose career the institution has had occasion to take notice; hence this sketch will confine itself to a limited range. To begin with the Seminary. From 1867 to 1896 the institution prepared for the sacred ministry 204 candidates, 82 of these being Benedictines and 122 members of the secular clergy.* At present the whole number is 335 of whom 132 are Benedictines and 203 secular clergymen or members of other religious orders. This number may appear small for fifty years, but St. John's has been only a private Seminary. Of its graduates, only one has been decorated with episcopal honors, the Right Rev. Joseph B. Cotter, of Winona, Minn. The priests who have gone forth from the Seminary chiefly labor in the West, in the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North and South Dakota and Nebraska. One, Rt. Rev. Edward Nagl, vicar general of the

*American Ecclesiastical Review, XVII. p. 289.

diocese of St. Cloud, was created a domestic prelate with the title and insignia of a monsignor by Pope Leo XIII in 1901, and V. Rev. Martin Noesen, '96, is the present vicar general of the diocese of Lead, S. D. Rev. F. X. Stemer, former vicar general of the apostolic vicariate of Northern Minnesota, was also a graduate of the Seminary.

The graduates in the other courses may be found in almost any of the numerous walks of life, — some of them practise law, others medicine; some are prosperous business men, others pursue humbler but equally useful avocations. Some have entered other schools and graduated in higher courses. Thus three members of the hierarchy of the United States, the Most Rev. Alexander Christie, archbishop of Oregon City, Rt. Rev. John Shanley, bishop of Fargo and Rt. Rev. James J. Keane, bishop of Cheyenne, studied their classics at St. John's and received their theological education elsewhere. In the State legislature of 1907 were three alumni of St. John's — Senators J. C. Hardy, J. E. C. Robinson and J. J. Ahmann.

Under God, the success of this work was undoubtedly due in great part to the well directed effort of the faculty, and it is with pride we recall the memory of those kind and earnest professors who have ceased from toil and gone to their reward. Nor must the patrons and benefactors of the institution be forgotten. First of all, in order of time, were the first two bishops of St. Paul, Rt. Revs. Jos. Cretin and Thomas Grace, and subsequently the bishops of St. Cloud, Otto Zardetti, Martin Marty O. S. B. and James Trobec, each of whom gave the institution substantial proof of his interest. Moreover, a great debt of gratitude is due to the Rev. clergy of this and neighboring states and to the generous donors of medals since 1880. Among these donors have been Bishops Seidenbusch, Zardetti, Marty, Trobec and Shanley, Mgrs. J. Bauer and E. Nagl, St. Cloud, Revs. C. V. Gamache, E. J. Lawlor, F. Goebel, P. Cary, M. Noesen, G. Gaskell, F. X. Stemer,

D. Lynch; Messrs. L. W. Collins, D. B. Searle, H. C. Waite, J. W. Arctander, J. J. Hill, Th. Bruenner, F. E. Searle, J. Caulfield, S. Wimmer, M. Maurin, J. Hoeschen and the Alumni Association.

The Golden Jubilee will gather to the bosom of Alma Mater representatives of every schoolyear, from every part of the Union and the event will be one memorable forever in the annals of the institution. Then memory will carry them back to the scenes and places hallowed by the light of youth, they will tell of the little trials and struggles encountered in their college days and go forth strengthened anew to take upon themselves the responsibilities of life and fulfill the purpose for which they were fitted by their education. God speed their efforts and perpetuate their success!









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